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KIDS

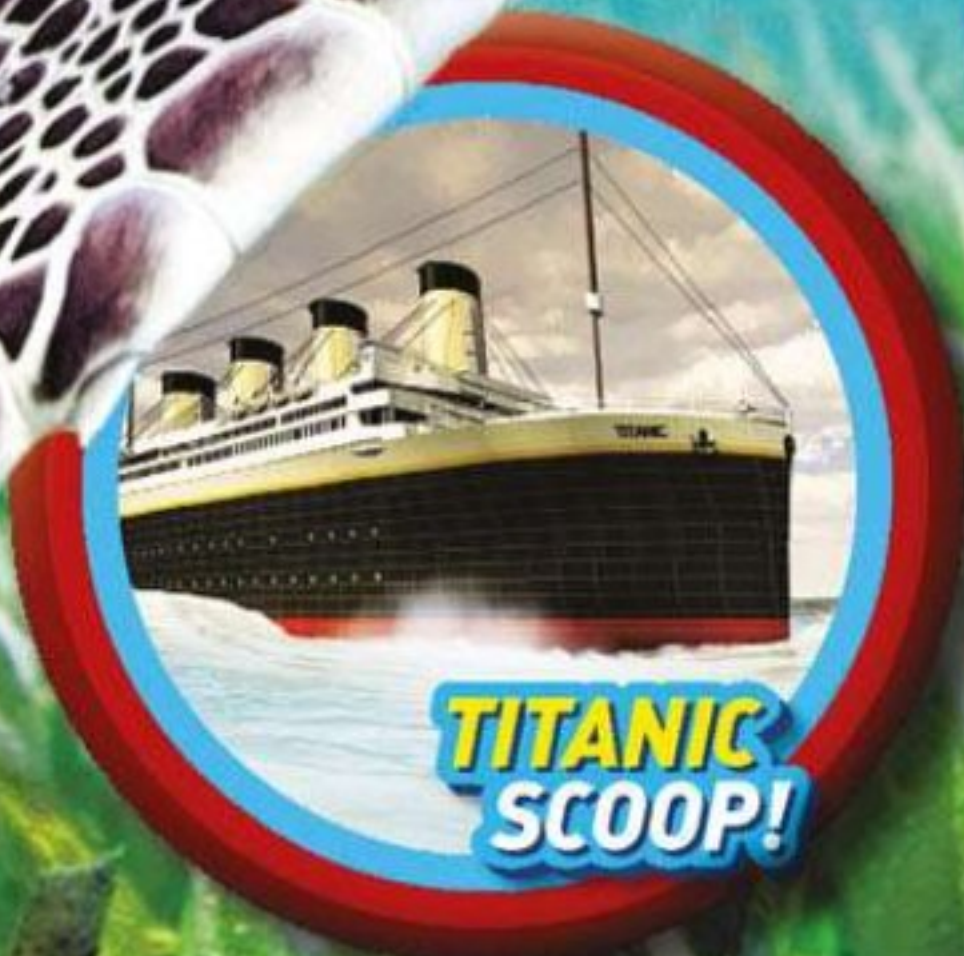
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ANCIENT EGYPT



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NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC



Issue 92 April 2012 R26,95 (VAT incl.)

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CONVERSE

HI, KIDS

WRITE TO US!

Send us your letters, birthdays, pictures and comments. We want to hear from you, so start writing!

- Write to us at: The Editor, NG KIDS, PO Box 2271, Cape Town 8000.
- Send us an e-mail to fiona@ngkids.co.za or SMS* us a letter to "NGK Letters" 33970.

* Standard rates apply for MMSs, so ask your parents first! SMSs cost R1,50. Free SMSs do not apply. See www.ngkids.co.za for terms and conditions.



I'm feeling positive! There are signs all around me that attitudes are changing when it comes to the way we treat the planet. In the past we used Earth's resources without thinking too much about the consequences.

In the end something has to give: according to the WWF Living Planet report we have to change the way we live or we'll need another Earth's worth of resources by the 2030s.

Despite looking really, really hard all round the universe we haven't found even one other planet that's anything as useful as Earth (not that we should go and mess up another anyway!). We have to find a way for everybody to have a good quality of life while using only their fair share of the resources.

In this issue of NG KIDS we look at three ways to generate our own energy using sun, wind and poo! On page 30 we learn how award-winning eco-sculptor Jason deCaires Taylor combines his skill as an artist with conservation. Fun Stuff has turned green as well. I wish it were that easy for the rest of us!

April has three public holidays. One of them is Freedom Day on 27 April, which celebrates the day of our first democratic elections, when Nelson Mandela became our president.

This year the "new South Africa" turns 18 – in human terms, our country is now a grown-up! Let me know what you think of South Africa and what your wishes are for its future.

Dare to Explore!

PS I'd also like to hear what you get up to during the Easter holidays!

SUBSCRIBERS OF THE MONTH

April's subscribers of the month are Chrisna Wagenaar, 12, from Jamestown and Aedan Booysen, 5, from Menlo Park. Chrisna won a pair of Chicago CRS200 Adjustable Roller Skates and Aedan won a pair of Chicago CRS205 Adjustable Roller Skates for boys.

This sporty quad skate with two-piece boot adjusts through four full sizes so there's no need to worry about them outgrowing the boots too quickly. The double mesh, breathable and adjustable liner makes for comfortable skating. Each skate has oversized wheels, semi-precision speed bearings and built-in toe stop for safe and reliable stopping, indoors and outdoors. It's great for first-time and skilled skaters.

Visit www.rollerkidz.co.za for more information.

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FIND ME!



To celebrate Earth Day on 22 April we hid ten polar bears on the pages of the magazine! Here's one, but can you spot all ten?



LETTER OF THE MONTH

CHERIEN AND THE NEW PUPPY!

HI FIONA,

I LOVE NG KIDS! I HAVE A BROTHER NAMED WILBRIE. HE IS SIX AND HE ALMOST LOST IT WHEN I RECEIVED THE ISSUE WITH THE SNOW LEOPARD! THANK YOU FOR AN AMAZING MAGAZINE! I ALSO SENT YOU A PHOTO OF ME WITH MY DOG'S NEW BABY.

REGARDS,
CHERIEN VAN ZYL, 10, RIEBEECKSTAD

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Read about the fascinating lives of seven sea turtles.

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Three energy-busting ideas for a cleaner, greener future.

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Underwater Sculptures

Check out these eco-friendly sculptures.

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On the Cover

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APULA (14802)



JULIUS T. CSOTONYI (DINOSAURS); ISTOCKPHOTO (MUSHROOM, MARBLES); GETTY / GALLO / AFP IMAGES (WIN THIDA)

Palaeontologists Strike Dino Gold

The oldest known dinosaur nesting site, dating from 190 million years ago, has been found in the Golden Gate Highlands National Park in the Free State. It includes nests, eggs, hatchlings and the remains of adults. The species that lived here was the *Massospondylus*. It had a small head, ate only plants and grew to at least six metres long. The females lay as many as 35 small eggs, arranged them neatly in one layer and guarded the nest.

Most unusual about *Massospondylus*? It walked on all fours as a kid but on its back legs as a grown-up. Humans do that but it's very unusual for an animal, says biology professor Robert Reisz of Toronto Mississauga University, who led the research team.

Operation Elephant Eye

Win Thida the Asian elephant injured her cornea playing with her pachyderm pals. Keepers at her home, the Artis Zoo in Amsterdam in the Netherlands, weren't sure what to do. Ointment and painkillers weren't helping and when she began struggling to keep the eye open, the zoo called in veterinarian Anne-Marie Verbruggen. They decided to give Win Thida a jumbo-sized contact lens but this would involve an hour-long operation and a very tall ladder.

The elephant had to be anaesthetised in a standing position and she and Anne-Marie trained daily for weeks to prepare her for the operation. "The main difficulty was her height," says Anne-Marie. "Elephants can't lie down for long before their immense weight impairs their breathing, so I used a ladder to get close enough. It wasn't ideal, but it worked." As for Win Thida's eyesight, zoo officials say it got better right away after the fitting.



APRIL FOOL'S

PRANKED! One of the boxes below is flipped backwards. To read the text, hold up your magazine to a mirror. Can you read it now?

April Fool's Day has been cancelled! Only joking. In South Africa the first day of April is usually a day full of tricks, pranks and crazy stunts but celebrations aren't the same around the world.

Merry pranksters in France celebrate *Poisson d'Avril*, which means "April Fish", by taping a fish to someone's back and calling out "poisson d'Avril" when they discover it. Originally it used to be a dead fish but nowadays it's more often a paper fish.

"Prymz Apryls" and also dress up in costume. Polish pranksters celebrate considered the fool instead. tries one after noon they are in the morning and it anyone Polish pranksters celebrate. They are after noon they are in the morning and it anyone Polish pranksters celebrate considered the fool instead. tries one after noon they are in the morning and it anyone Polish pranksters celebrate considered the fool instead.

There are even countries that celebrate foolishness on other days. In Denmark celebrations are on 1 May, called Maj-kat. Spain and Mexico observe the Feast of the Innocents on 28 December.

BY DELENÉ VAN DER LUGT

Marvellous Marbles

Good Friday each year marks one of events on the sporting calendar – Marbles Championships!

Since 1932 teams have been battling it out in the car park of the Greyhound pub in Tinsley Green, England. Teams from all over the world compete and try to knock 25 glass balls out of a two-metre concrete ring. Sadly you have to be at least 20 to enter. It sounds like a ball!



the wackiest the World



What a fun-gi!

Imagine that instead of dropping off all your plastic recycling at a landfill, you unleashed your plastic-eating mushroom and before you knew it, your rubbish was gone! Polyurethane is in almost everything we use – pens, toys and even the hosepipe you use to water the garden. It's extremely resilient and can take up to centuries to decompose. That may be about to change.

A group of Yale University biology students went on a rainforest expedition in Ecuador to examine plants. They came back with an undiscovered fungus that has the ability not only to eat plastic, but to survive on a diet of plastic!

Pestalotiopsis microspora is the first known fungus that survives on just plastic in an environment without oxygen. That's exactly what the conditions are like at the bottom of a landfill.

The students recently published their research. Perhaps someday all rubbish dumps will have these "green" fungi happily munching away!



Cool Things about Frogs

Save The Frogs Day is on 28 April. People all over the world will host events to raise awareness of frog conservation. Here's "hopping" it's a big success!

1. Frog bones form a ring when the frog is hibernating, just like trees do. Scientists can use these rings to calculate the age of a frog.
2. The golden poison dart frog produces a toxin in its skin. It's so lethal, just one gram could kill 100 000 people.
3. About once a week frogs completely shed their skin – after pulling off the old, dead skin, they eat it.
4. A group of frogs is called an army.
5. Tadpoles of some frogs can change their shape when they detect predators in their water. Their new shape – which develops over a few weeks – allows them to swim faster and avoid being fish food.



TRUST BOB MARTIN

WIN!

Because **your dog is your best friend**, you want to **give it food as good as Mum's!** Life-long pet-loving family **Bob Martin** has a brand new **dog food range** called **Bob Martin Complete Condition**. It's **healthy, delicious** and **packed with the goodness** of **Bob Martin Condition tablets**. And talking about Mums: tell her it's **conveniently available** from **supermarkets!**

Bob Martin is **giving away four hampers** to the **value of R500 each.** SMS "NGKIDS Bob" followed by your **name, surname and age** to **33970**. Visit www.bobmartin.co.za for more information.

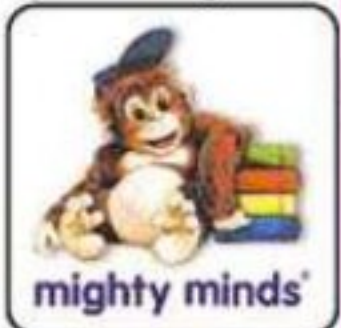


MIGHTY MINDS

WIN!

Mighty Minds is an **educational series** of **colourful charts and posters** with **stunning photographs** and **bright illustrations** that will brighten any room. These posters are a **rich source** of **information** for use at **home** and in **school**. All posters are **laminated**, so they can be **wiped clean easily!**

Win one of three poster sets of 30 different posters for your classroom! SMS "NGKMighty" to **33970** followed by your **name and surname**, your **school's name, address** and **telephone number**, as well as **your teacher's name** to **33970**. Contact **Seans@silveray.co.za** for more information.



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*SMSs cost R1.50. Free SMSs don't apply. Competition closes 24 April 2012. Visit www.ngkids.co.za for terms and conditions.

Amazing Animals

CAT GETS SWIMMING LESSONS

WONDER IF THE OLYMPIC SWIMMING TEAM NEEDS A MEMBER?



Lostwithiel, England

When most cats get wet, the fur starts flying. Not Mog. This fearless feline doesn't mind taking dips in the pool, especially since his regular swim sessions help him grow stronger.

Owner Veronica Ashworth enrolled Mog in hydrotherapy to help the cat heal after he was struck by a car. Hydrotherapy is light exercises in warm water to strengthen muscles. The treatment has been used for humans, horses and dogs – but rarely for cats.

"No one thought Mog would take to it," Veronica says. "But soon he was swimming laps around the pool."

Now Mog spends about 15 minutes every week gliding through the water with a trainer by his side. His front legs are getting stronger and he's developed a pretty impressive swimming style. "I call it the Moggie-paddle," Veronica says.

ELK RESCUES MARMOT

Idaho, America

Shooter the elk was clomping around his enclosure at Pocatello Zoo when he noticed something strange about his watering tank. Getting closer, he saw that a marmot had fallen in and was drowning. As the marmot struggled for air, Shooter circled the tank wondering what to do.

Finally the elk dunked his head into the water, grabbed the marmot with his mouth, lifted it from the tank and placed it on the ground. Then he gently nudged the creature until it moved. Stunned but safe, the marmot scampered off.

Experts think Shooter's superior sniffer played a big role in the rescue. Elk have an incredible sense of smell and Shooter may have become aware of the drowning marmot by picking up its scent. "Elk are also very sensitive animals," scientist Jennifer Murrow says. "It's very possible Shooter realised the marmot was in danger and wanted to help." Who knew there are lifeguards with antlers?



THIS DEFINITELY BEATS TAKING THE BUS.

PIGEON RIDES FERRY

New York, America

When Tony the pigeon wants to get from his nest in New York to nearby New Jersey, he doesn't fly – he takes a ferry. Every day for three years the bird has hitched a ride on a passenger boat that travels to and from the city.

Just like the human passengers Tony walks onto the ferry every morning at nine. Then he starts pecking around for food. He gets off briefly at each stop to search for more crumbs, then reboards the boat. Two hours later the ferry drops him off where he started.

"He's really smart and unique," ferry deckhand George Schumpp says.

Most pigeons fly from place to place looking for food. But that can be tiring. "Tony has learnt how to get what he needs without wasting a lot of energy," says biologist Mike Shapiro of the University of Utah. Clearly this pigeon is no birdbrain.



TONY'S DAILY RIDE

© SWNS (BIG PHOTO, MOG WITH TRAINER); COURTESY VERONICA ASHWORTH (MOG WITH BANDAGES); JOEL SARTORE / NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC STOCK (MARMOT); © AGE FOTOSTOCK / SUPERSTOCK (MARMOT HAND), IMAGE DIGITALLY COMPOSED; JOY FOX / POCATELLO ZOO (ELK RESCUE); NY WATERWAY (TONY, FERRY)

Bet you
didn't
know

11

COOL

1 Egyptian doctors often used **honey** to treat patients.

2 King Tut had four **miniature coffins** to hold his internal organs.

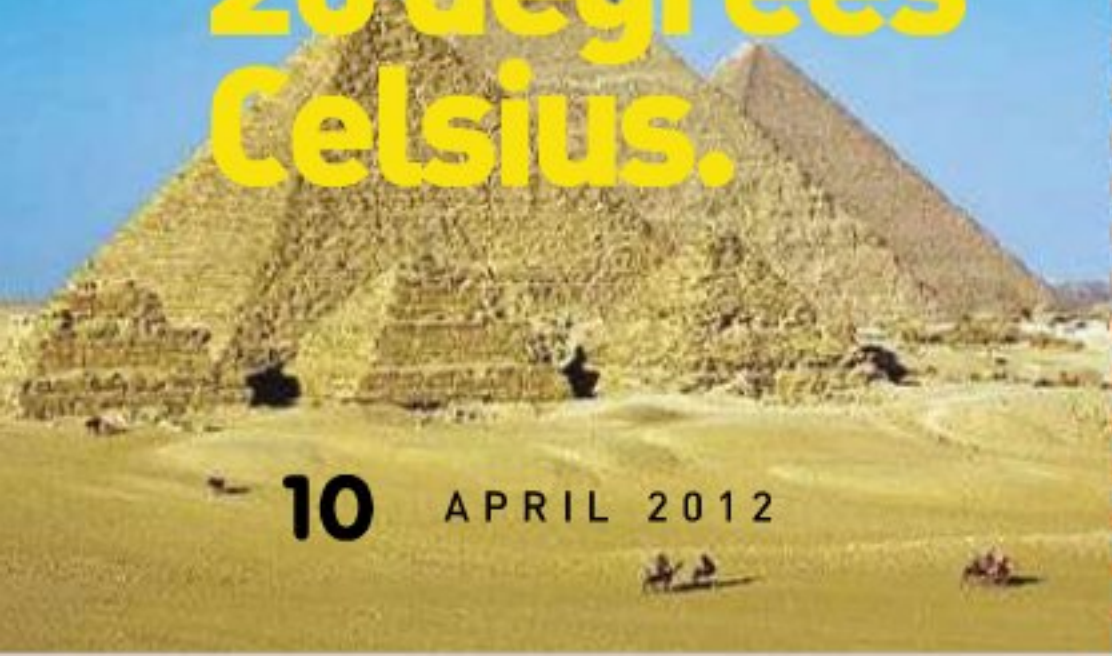
3 When **unwrapped**, a mummy's bandages could **stretch** for **800 metres**.

4 Egyptians played a **sport** similar to baseball called **tipcat**.

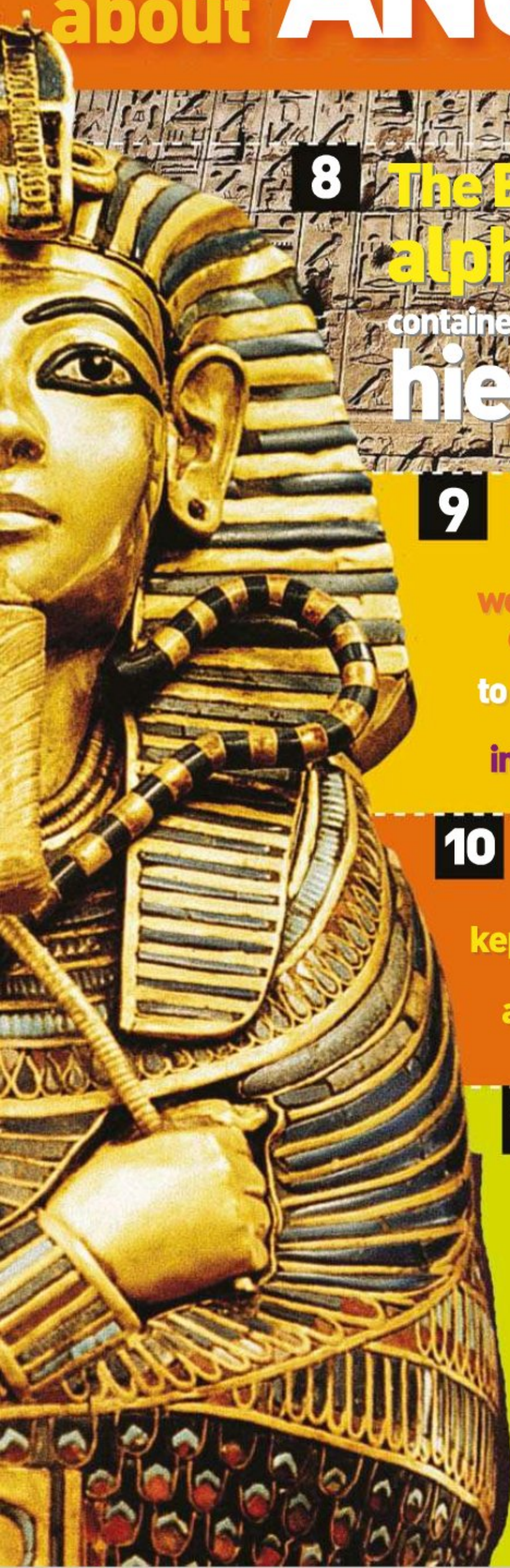
5 Pharaohs wore **fake beards** made of **goat hair**.

6 The temperature inside the **Great Pyramid at Giza** is always **20 degrees Celsius**.

7 **Cleopatra**, who ruled Egypt for about **22 years**, was actually **Greek**.



things about ANCIENT EGYPT



8 The Egyptian alphabet contained more than **700** hieroglyphs.

9 Tombs were stocked with everything from **food** to **chariots** for use in the **afterlife**.

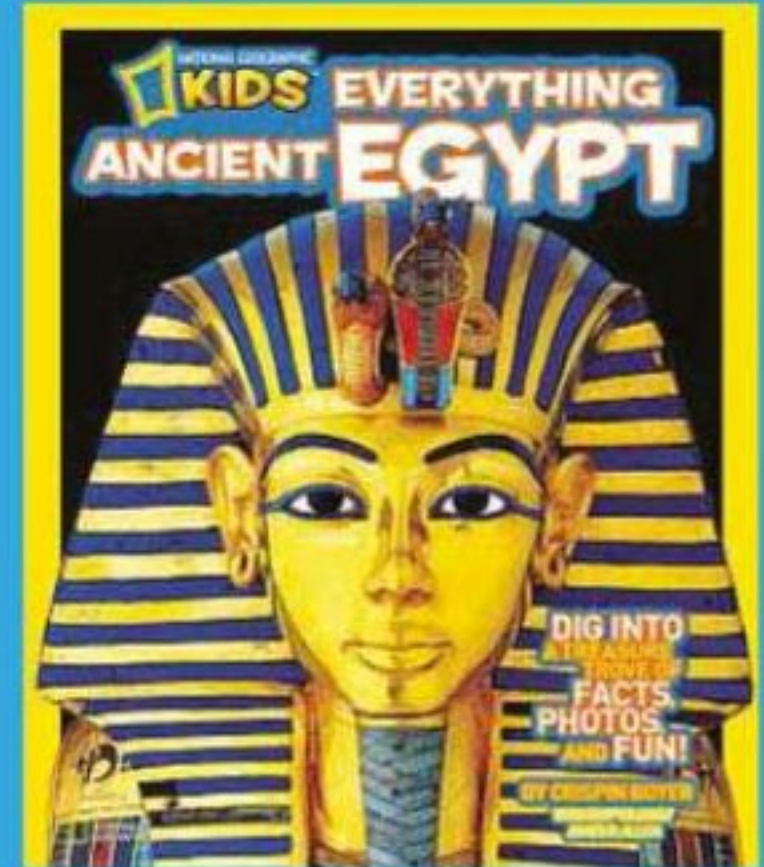
10 One Egyptian leader kept **hippos** as **pets**.



11 Egyptian people worshipped more than **2 000 gods** and **goddesses**.

WANT MORE?

Check out *National Geographic KIDS Everything Ancient Egypt*.



Available from www.kalahari.com

Take a COOL ANCIENT EGYPT QUIZ—ON YOUR PHONE!

Do you have a smartphone? With a parent's help, follow these instructions.



- 1 Go to your phone's app store.
- 2 Search for and download a free mobile bar code scanner.
- 3 Open the scanner.
- 4 Aim your phone at the mobile bar code (above) so it's in the middle of the screen.
- 5 Watch what happens!

Weird but true

Check out the

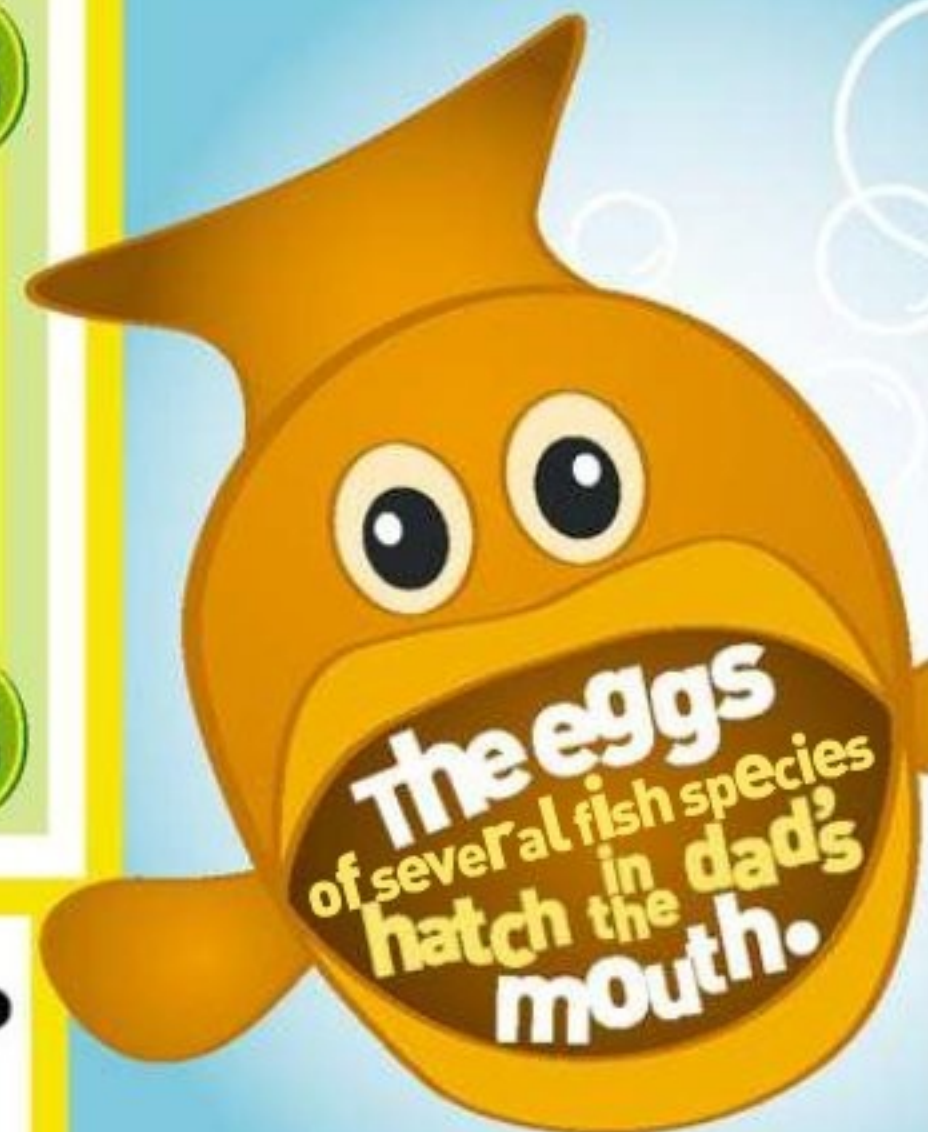
**CERTAIN BIRDS
CAN USE THEIR
BILLS
TO MEASURE
THE TEMPERATURE
OF THEIR
NESTS.**



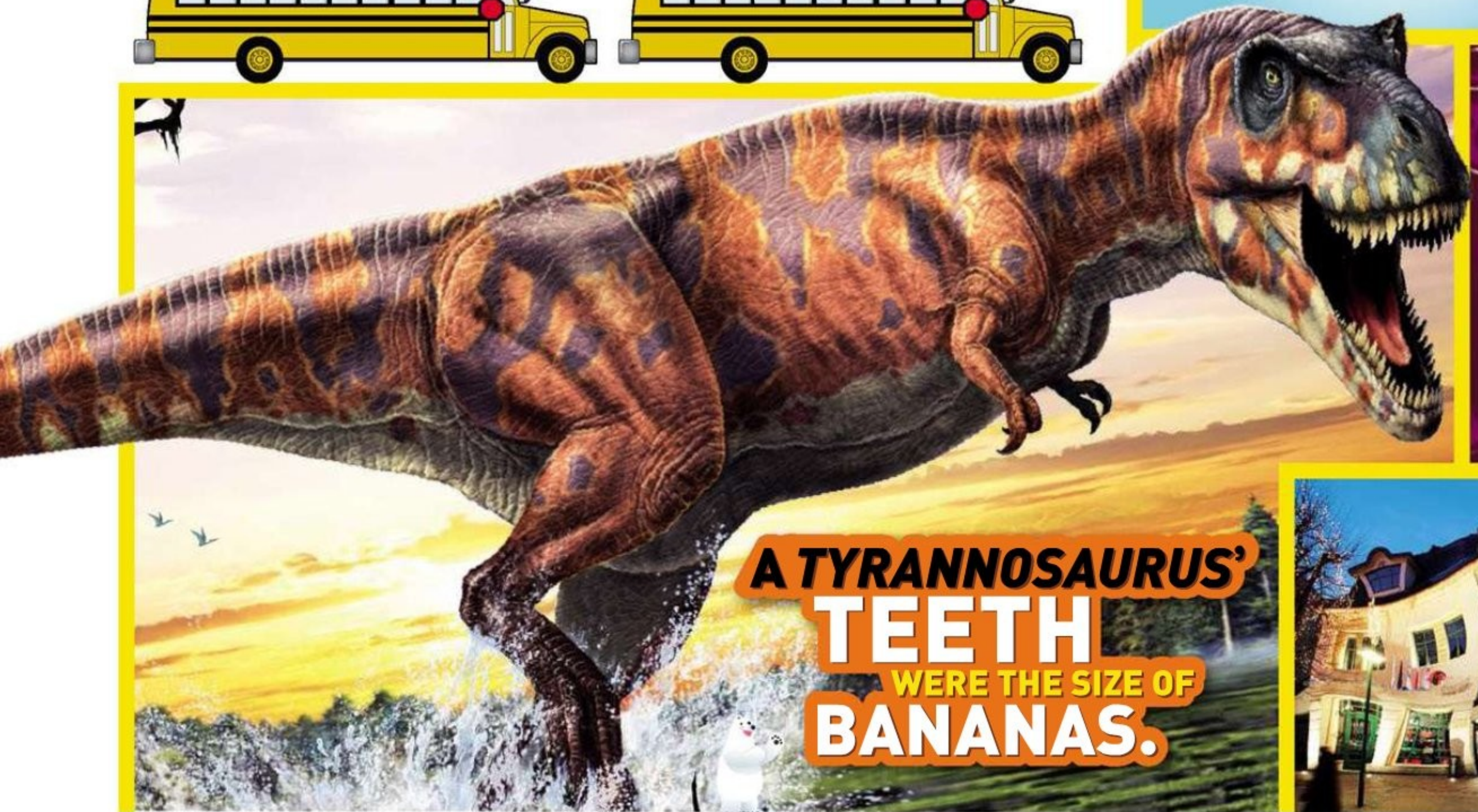
**A
COW
IN
CANADA
WAS SOLD FOR
MORE
THAN
R8
MILLION.**



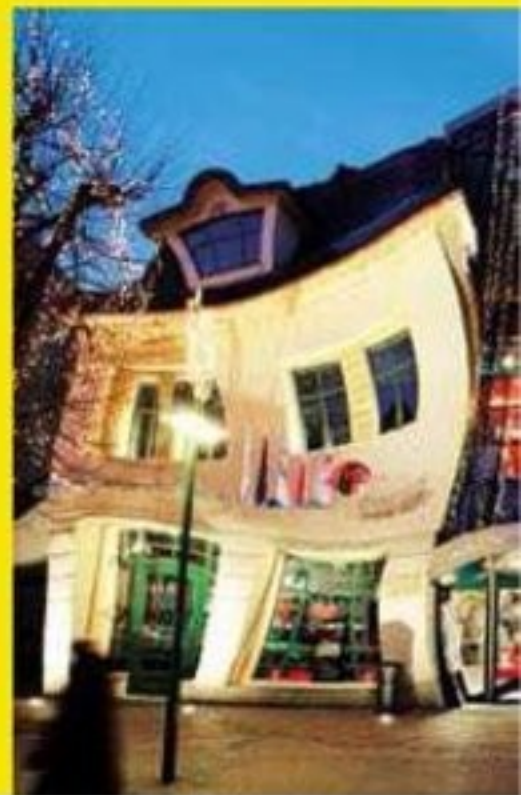
**The eggs
of several fish species
hatch in dad's
mouth.**



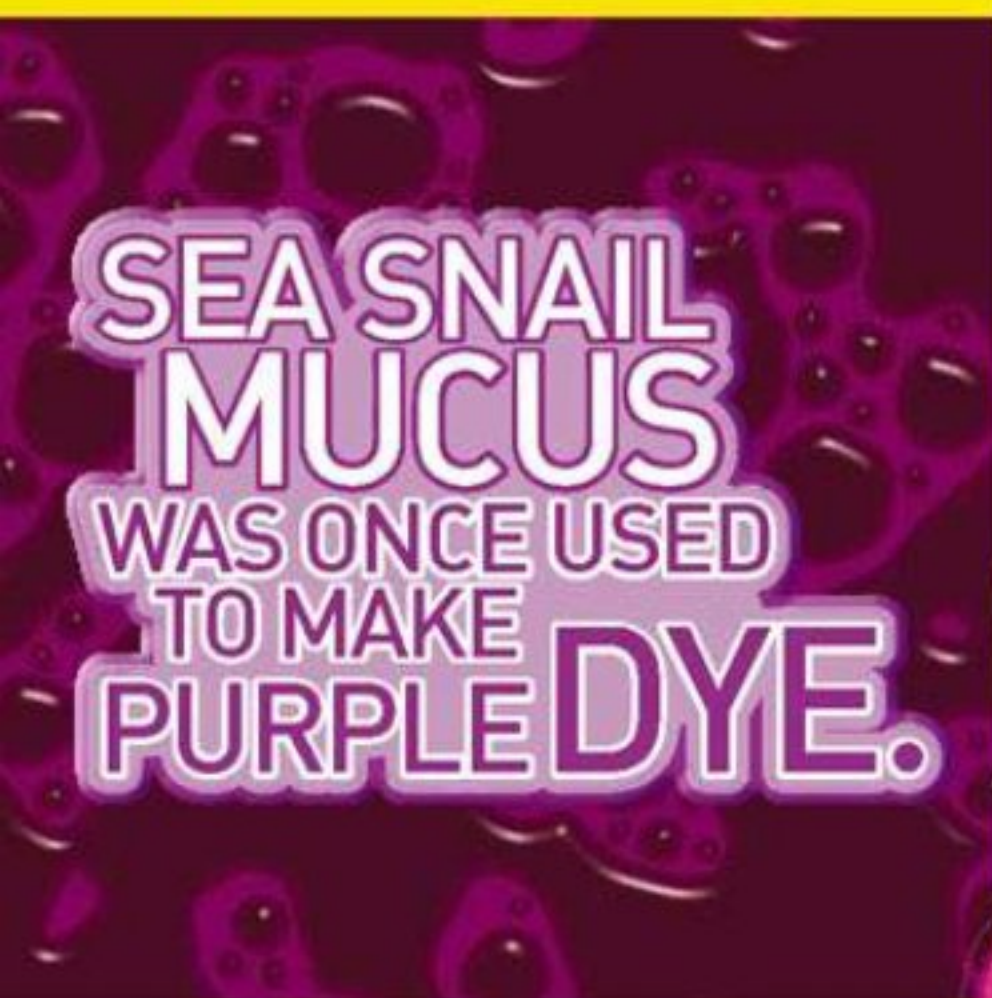
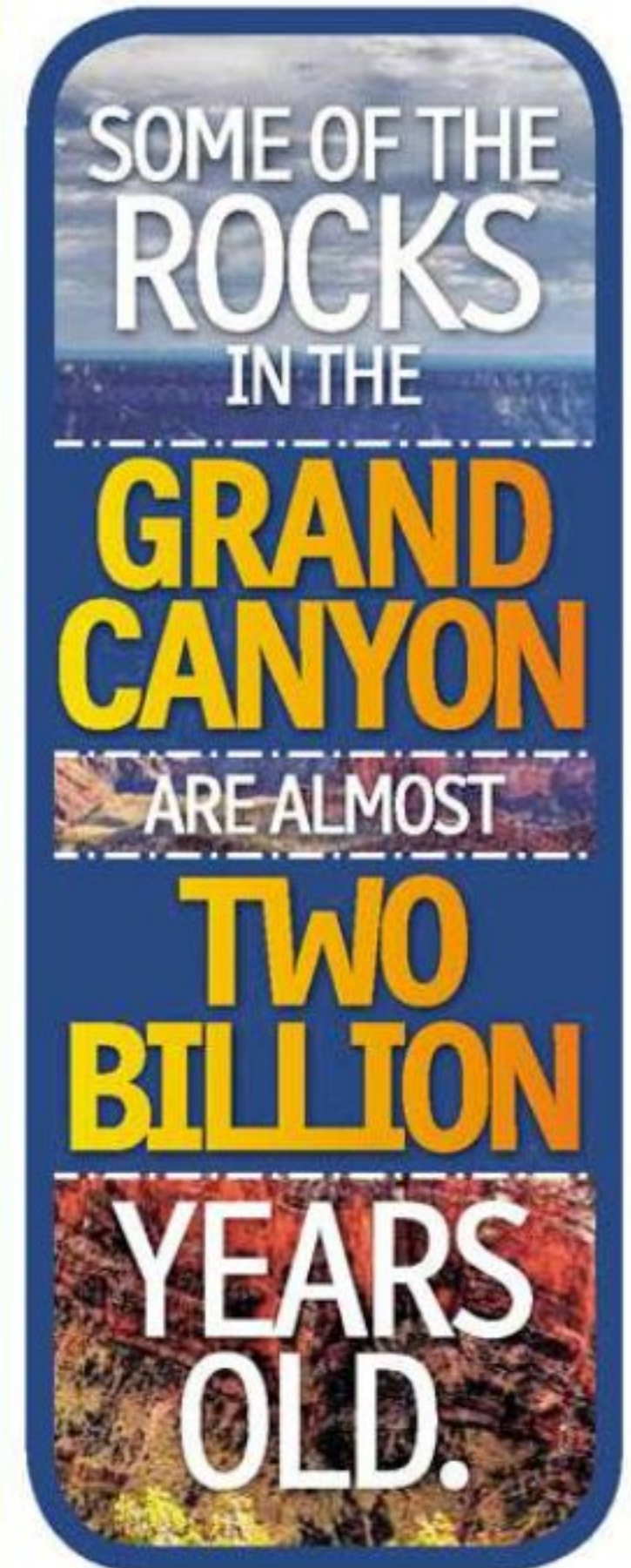
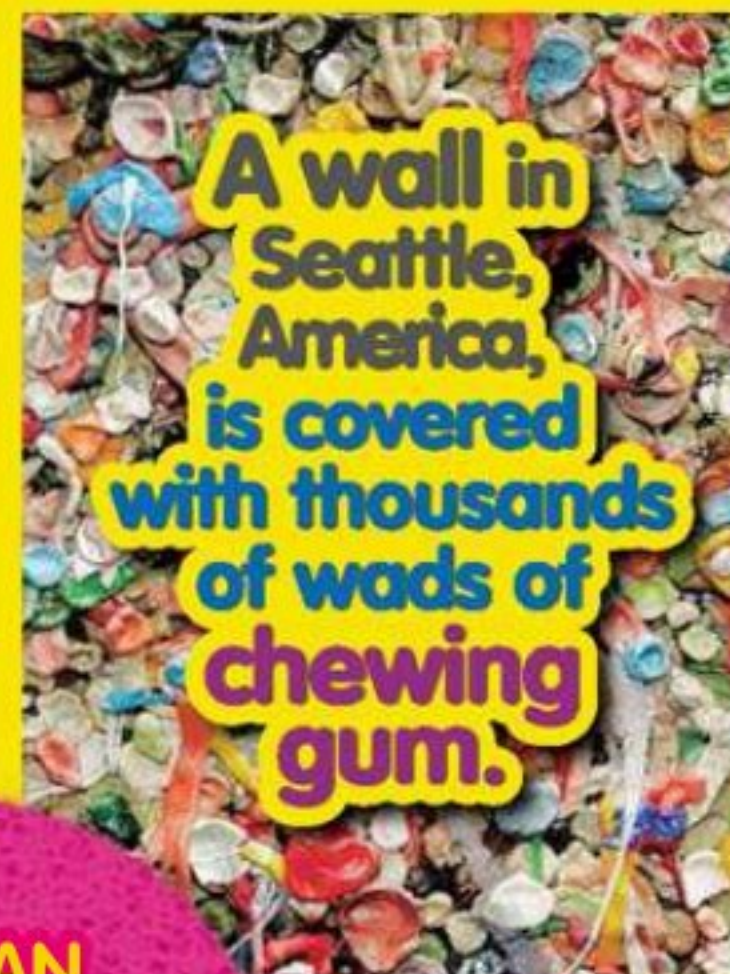
SOME TREE SNAKES CAN GLIDE THE LENGTH OF TWO SCHOOL BUSES THROUGH THE AIR.



**A TYRANNOSAURUS'
TEETH
WERE THE SIZE OF
BANANAS.**



se outrageous facts.



OCEAN SUPERSTAR

The fascinating
of 7 sea turtle



GREEN SEA TURTLE: THE NEAT FREAK

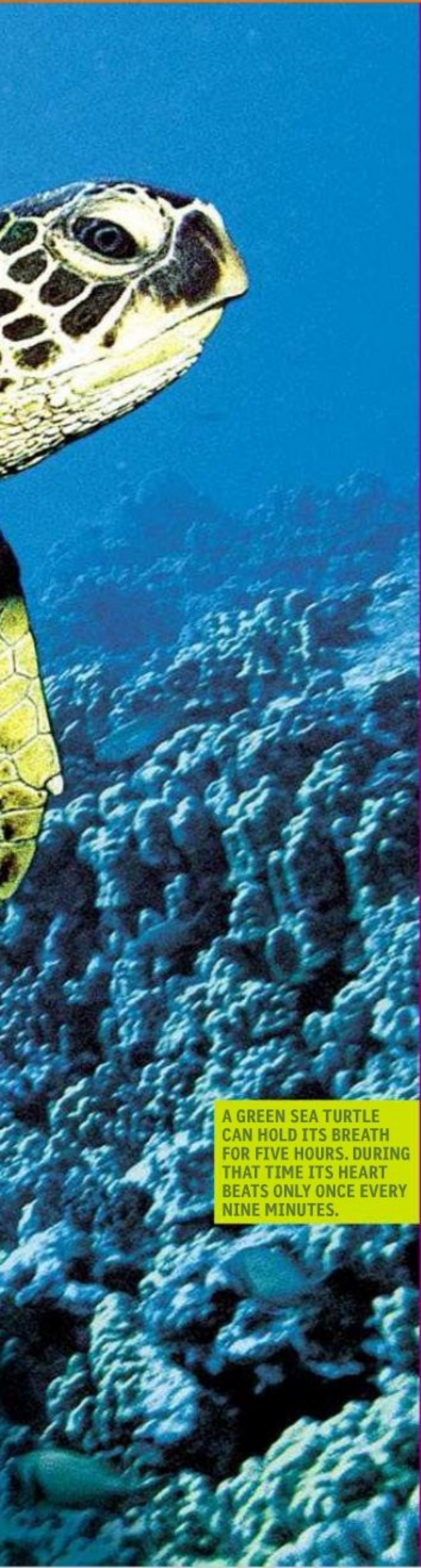
Green sea turtles have a couple of answers to the question “how do you stay clean when you live in water?” Green turtles in Hawaii visit a swim-through turtle wash. Turtles choose a “cleaning station”—a location where groups of cleaner fish groom the turtles by eating the algae, barnacles, parasites and other ocean dirt off their shells and skin. In Australia the turtles clean up with sponge baths! They rub against a favourite sponge or rock, scrubbing algae off their shells, heads and flippers.

BILL CURTSINGER / NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC STOCK (LARGE GROUP); © NORBERT WU / MINDEN PICTURES (GREEN); © CLAUDIO CONTRERES / NPL / MINDEN PICTURES (KEMP'S RIDLEY); © SA TEAM / FOTO NATURE / MINDEN PICTURES (LEATHERBACK)

lives species RS

BY RUTH A. MUSGRAVE

Think all sea turtles are the same? Yes, they all have shells and flippers. But while all seven species are endangered or vulnerable, each kind stands out in its own way. Here's a look at the traits that make each species a superstar.



A GREEN SEA TURTLE CAN HOLD ITS BREATH FOR FIVE HOURS. DURING THAT TIME ITS HEART BEATS ONLY ONCE EVERY NINE MINUTES.



KEMP'S RIDLEY HATCHLINGS

KEMP'S RIDLEY: THE LITTLE ONE

The Kemp's ridley may be the smallest sea turtle, but that doesn't mean it's tiny. The adult reptile weighs 30 to 50 kilograms—more than many ten-year-old kids. Its shield-shaped shell is about the size of a car tyre. This "little" turtle is also speedy. Most sea turtles take two to four hours to dig a nest, lay and bury eggs. "Kemp's ridleys are very quick," says sea turtle expert Tasha Metz. "It takes them only about 50 minutes to do all of that."

A FISHERMAN NAMED RICHARD KEMP WAS THE FIRST TO SUBMIT THIS TURTLE TO SCIENTISTS FOR IDENTIFICATION, SO THE SPECIES WAS NAMED AFTER HIM.

LEATHERBACK: THE MEGA TURTLE

The leatherback is a giant among reptiles. Its leathery shell, which can be almost 2 metres long and 1.5 metres wide, is about as big as a door. Tipping the scales at an average of 680 kilograms, these mega turtles weigh more than any other sea turtle. Six professional rugby players weigh as much as one leatherback. Its massive size doesn't slow it down, though. A leatherback can swim as fast as a bottlenose dolphin.

WHEN THEY SEARCH FOR FOOD, LEATHERBACKS DIVE DEEPER THAN ANY OTHER REPTILE. SCIENTISTS THINK THEIR FLEXIBLE SHELLS HELP THEM SURVIVE THE PRESSURE OF THE DEEP SEA.



LOGGERHEAD: THE TOUGH GUY

The loggerhead sea turtle's powerful jaws can easily crack open the thick shells of lobsters (below), large conchs and whelk snails to get to the meat inside. Like other sea turtles, loggerheads nest in one place and eat in another. After leaving the nesting site, some loggerheads swim a third of the way around the world to find food.

LOGGERHEADS TRAVEL INTO COLD WATERS AS FAR NORTH AS NEWFOUNDLAND IN CANADA AND AS FAR SOUTH AS ARGENTINA.



MUMS LIKE THESE LAY AND BURY THEIR EGGS ON THE BEACH. EVENTUALLY THE BABY TURTLES HATCH AND DIG OUT OF THEIR SAND NESTS. THEY SCAMPER INTO THE SEA, DISAPPEARING FOR SEVERAL YEARS. SCIENTISTS AREN'T SURE WHERE THE HATCHLINGS LIVE DURING THIS TIME.

HAWKSBILL: THE HARDY EATER

Hawksbill sea turtles have an unusual diet: sponges. "Some sponges are made of hard, glass-like needles," Tasha says. "A hawksbill easily nips off pieces of sponge with its sharp beak." Sponges are toxic to most animals, but not to this turtle. It gobbles about 540 kilograms of sponges a year without any trouble. The toxic diet has an advantage. Few other animals eat sponges, so the turtle doesn't have to compete for food.

HAWKSBILL SEA TURTLES LIVE IN TROPICAL CORAL REEFS AROUND THE WORLD. THEIR NAME DESCRIBES THE HAWKLIKE BEAK, WHICH IS PERFECT FOR PLUCKING SPONGES FROM THE CRACKS AND CREVICES IN CORAL.



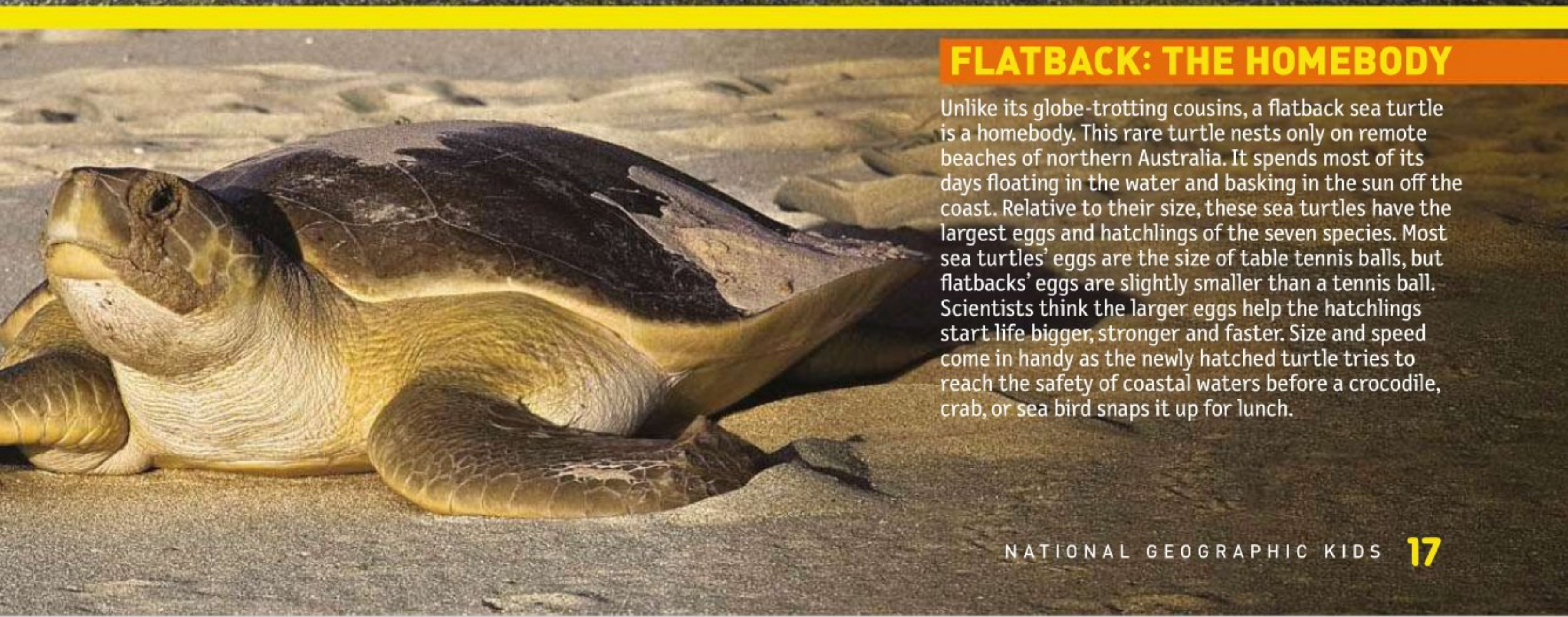
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THIS SEA TURTLE'S SHELL IS FLATTER ON TOP THAN OTHER TURTLES' SHELLS—WHICH LED TO ITS NAME. SEA BIRDS OFTEN PERCH ON THE BACKS OF FLOATING FLATBACKS.



OLIVE RIDLEY: THE SUPERMUM

Every year hundreds of thousands of female olive ridley sea turtles take over beaches like tourists on December holidays. Scientists call this event an *arribada*, which is Spanish for “arrival”. An *arribada* starts with the females gathering offshore, just floating and waiting. Then, as if they hear an underwater starter’s pistol, the turtles charge onto the beach. A female sea turtle comes ashore only to lay her eggs. She buries them in the sand and then disappears back into the sea. On one beach in India 200 000 turtles came ashore during an *arribada*. “There’s an advantage to these large numbers,” Tasha says. “Thousands of turtles swarming the shoreline can overwhelm any predator.”



FLATBACK: THE HOMEBODY

Unlike its globe-trotting cousins, a flatback sea turtle is a homebody. This rare turtle nests only on remote beaches of northern Australia. It spends most of its days floating in the water and basking in the sun off the coast. Relative to their size, these sea turtles have the largest eggs and hatchlings of the seven species. Most sea turtles’ eggs are the size of table tennis balls, but flatbacks’ eggs are slightly smaller than a tennis ball. Scientists think the larger eggs help the hatchlings start life bigger, stronger and faster. Size and speed come in handy as the newly hatched turtle tries to reach the safety of coastal waters before a crocodile, crab, or sea bird snaps it up for lunch.

Secrets

SCIENTISTS USE CUTTING-EDGE TECHNOLOGY TO UNCOVER NEW EVIDENCE ABOUT HOW THE SHIP SANK.

BY KRISTIN BAIRD RATTINI

Sunday, 14 April 1912: The R.M.S. *Titanic* steams across the North Atlantic Ocean. The 269-metre-long passenger ship, the largest and most luxurious on the seas, carries 2 208 people on its first voyage from Southampton, England, to New York in America.

Suddenly a dark shape appears. "Iceberg right ahead!" shouts the lookout. It's too late—the iceberg scrapes the ship. Within three hours the *Titanic* sinks. Almost 1 500 people lose their lives.

Scientists discovered the *Titanic*'s wreck on the ocean floor in 1985 and have studied it closely ever since. To mark the hundredth anniversary of the sinking, National Geographic Explorer-in-Residence James Cameron—the director of the movie *Titanic*—assembled a team of experts to examine the shipwreck again. "We call it wreck forensics," he says. Using 3-D modelling and state-of-the-art technology, the experts recreated the scene to find new clues about how the *Titanic* sank.

FLOODING

Could the ship have sunk more slowly, allowing a greater number of people to survive? It's possible. Many of the ship's portholes were found open. Experts think passengers opened these windows to air their rooms and then never closed them. This caused the ship to take on water faster. Something similar may have happened in one of the grand lobbies, where a large door was found open. The ship's second officer had ordered a crewman to open it during the evacuation. The experts concluded that the door stayed open—letting water quickly flood the ship's lower half. "The door was twice the size of the damage caused by the iceberg," James says. "That would have sped up the sinking of the ship."

BREAKING

As the *Titanic* took on water, the front of

the ship, called the bow, sank below the surface. This caused the back, or stern, to lift into the air. Soon the stress was too great and the ship broke in half. James says the split was as if someone held the ends of a banana and snapped it in two. The top splits and the sides buckle, but the bottom peel stays intact. "When the *Titanic* broke in half and the bow pulled away, the bottom probably remained attached to the stern until it was pulled apart as well," he says.

SINKING

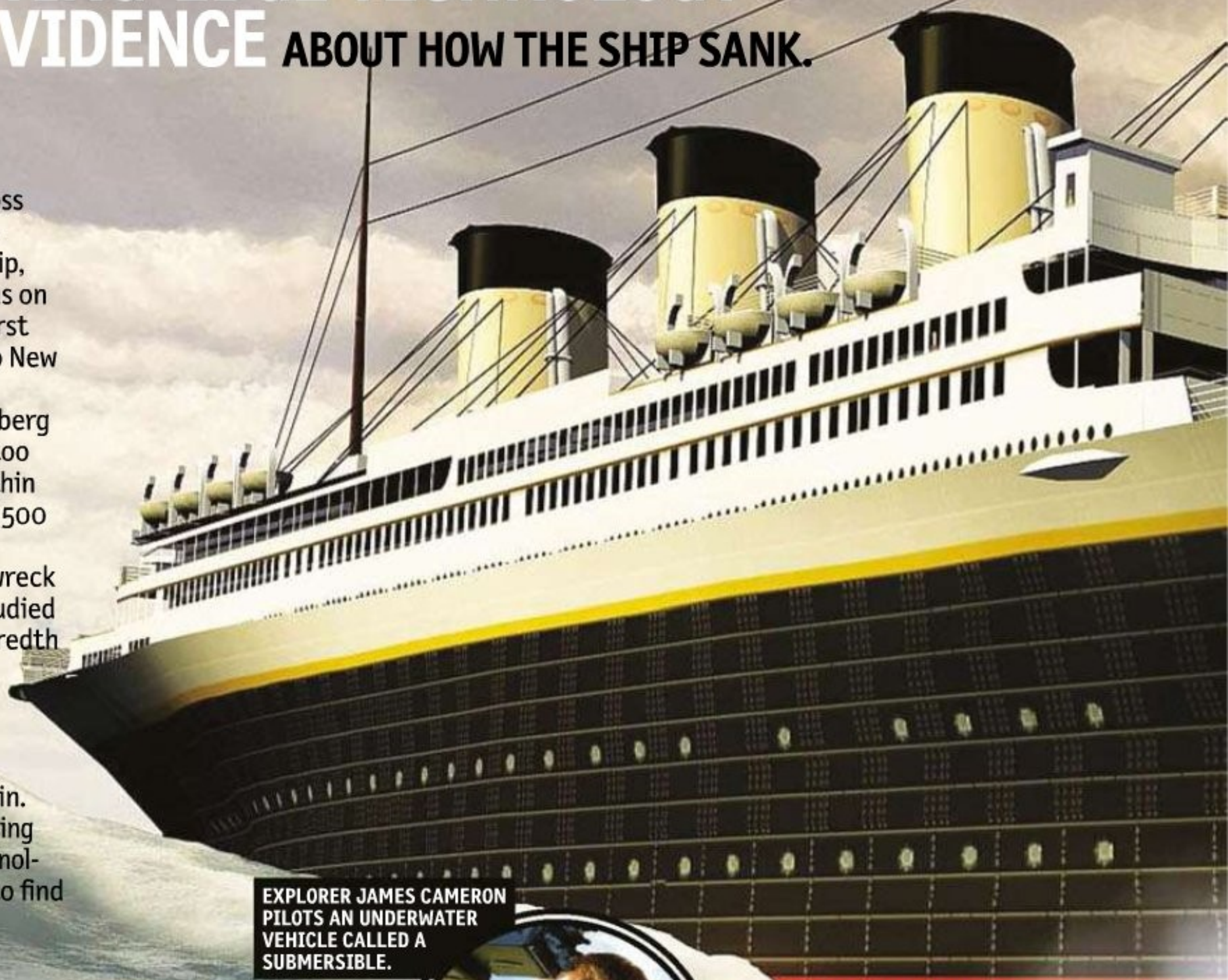
In its final resting place 4.6 kilometres underwater, the bow looks remarkably intact. But the stern looks like a bomb

destroyed it. Why the difference? The bow was filled with water when it sank, so the pressure was the same on the inside as the outside. The stern, however, sank with lots of air inside. "It imploded because of the pressure," James says.

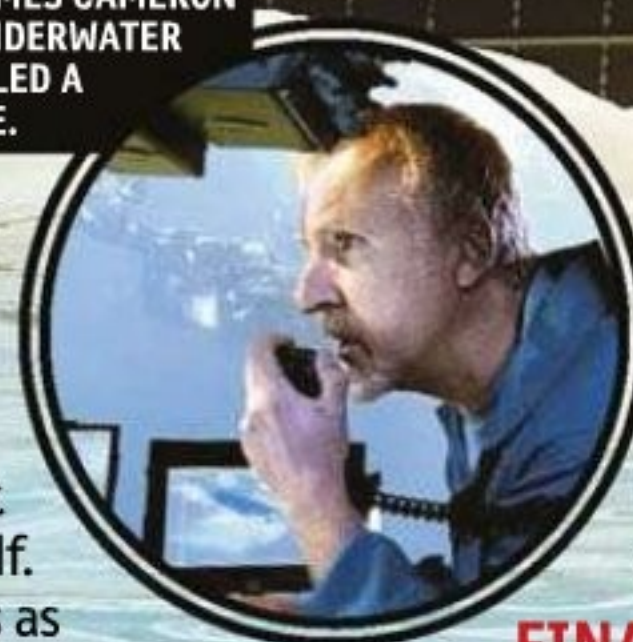
FINAL IMPACT

The sinking ship created a massive trail of water that followed it downward at 30 to 40 kilometres an hour. The experts think this water trail pummelled the *Titanic* after it hit the bottom. "Millions of litres of water pushed down on it," James says.

With all this new information, is our understanding of the *Titanic* tragedy complete? "I think we have a very good picture of what happened," James says. "But there will always be mysteries."



EXPLORER JAMES CAMERON PILOTS AN UNDERWATER VEHICLE CALLED A SUBMERSIBLE.



of
the

Titanic

SUPERSIZED SHIP

The *Titanic* was about as long as three soccer fields. With its smokestacks it was as tall as a 17-storey building.



WHAT IF...

Scientists know a lot about how the *Titanic* sank, but other things also played a part.

SCHEDULE

The *Titanic* set sail more than three weeks behind schedule. If the ship had left on time, there probably wouldn't have been an iceberg in its path.

FROM CALM TO CHAOS

The sea was unusually calm on 14 April 1912. Waves would have made the iceberg easier to spot.

MISSED MESSAGES

Two messages were telegraphed from other ships to warn the *Titanic* of icebergs, but they never reached the captain.

© COREY FORD / ALAMY (ART); © EXACTO STOCK / SUPERSTOCK (FRAME); DISNEY ENTERPRISES, INC. / WALDEN MEDIA, LLC (JAMES CAMERON); MARK THIESSEN / NBS STAFF (ROBERT BALLARD); © OCEAN / CORBIS (LIFE BUOY)



We asked oceanographer and National Geographic Explorer-in-Residence Robert Ballard, who led the team that discovered the *Titanic* in 1985, what it felt like to make the discovery of the century.

“My first reaction was one of excitement and celebration. But we were at the very spot on the cold North Atlantic Ocean where it all happened. So we had a quiet moment of remembrance.”

GREEK MYTHS

ZEUS: KING OF THE GODS

BY DONNA JO NAPOLI

ILLUSTRATIONS BY CHRISTINA BALIT

THE STORY BEGINS...

Zeus ruled over all the other gods and goddesses of ancient Greece. But he had to defeat his father, Cronus, to gain power. Years before, Cronus had swallowed Zeus' brothers and sisters – Hestia, Poseidon, Hades, Demeter and Hera. They were rescued and banded together against Cronus and his brothers and sisters, called the Titans. This is the story of their epic battle.

War began. And continued, as wars will do. For ten years the battle scorched Earth, sent smoke into the skies and sullied the waters. It wore away at everyone's spirits. In the end Gaia, the earth mother who had started all life, told Zeus he would win if he freed her other children, who were cast into the underworld by his father, Cronus.

Zeus never wasted a moment on second thoughts. He freed the three brothers, who each had 50 heads and 100 hands. He also freed the three Cyclopes. In surprised gratitude, the Cyclopes gave Zeus the lightning bolt and deafening thunder he could use to split the skies and set Earth on fire. They gave Zeus' brothers gifts, too. Poseidon got a sharp, gleaming trident with which he could strike the seabeds to raise massive waves. To Hades they gave a helmet of invisibility which would make him disappear.

The hundred-handed, one-eyed brothers fought beside their nieces and nephews.

No longer was the battle simply hurling rocks and spears or crushing the enemy with axes. Zeus hurled bolts and burned the forests. He cast flames so hot the seas boiled and parts of Earth melted. Poseidon shook Earth so rivers spilt over their banks. Hades raced unseen among all, attacking his enemies.

As Zeus saw it, the war was old against young. The young gods won.

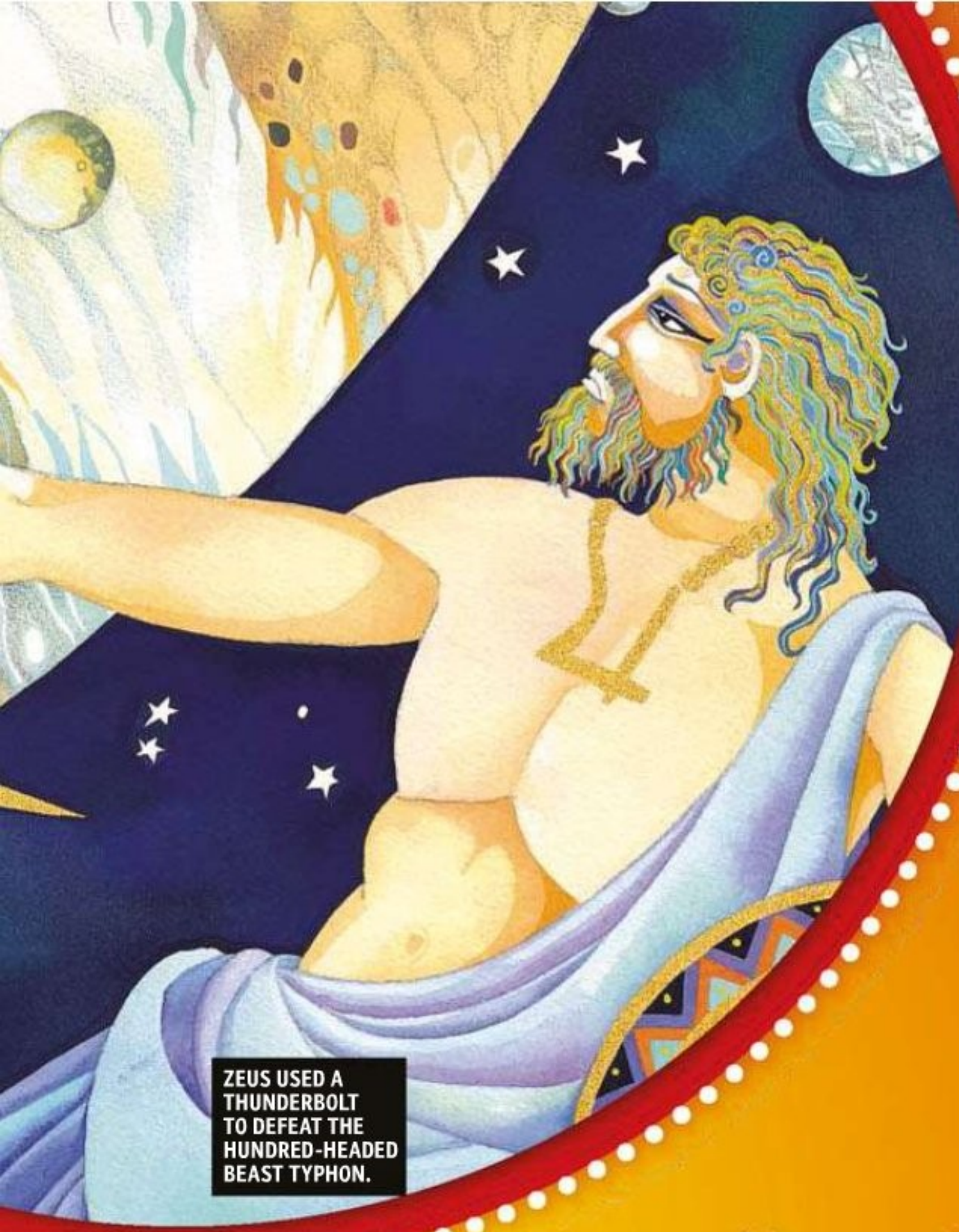
Zeus had the Titans sealed in the underworld with the hundred-handed ones as guards. Gaia was bewildered. What was the point of locking away the Titans? Why did Zeus have to be as vengeful as his father? And so she gave birth to her last child, the monster Typhon.

From his shoulders sprang a hundred serpentine

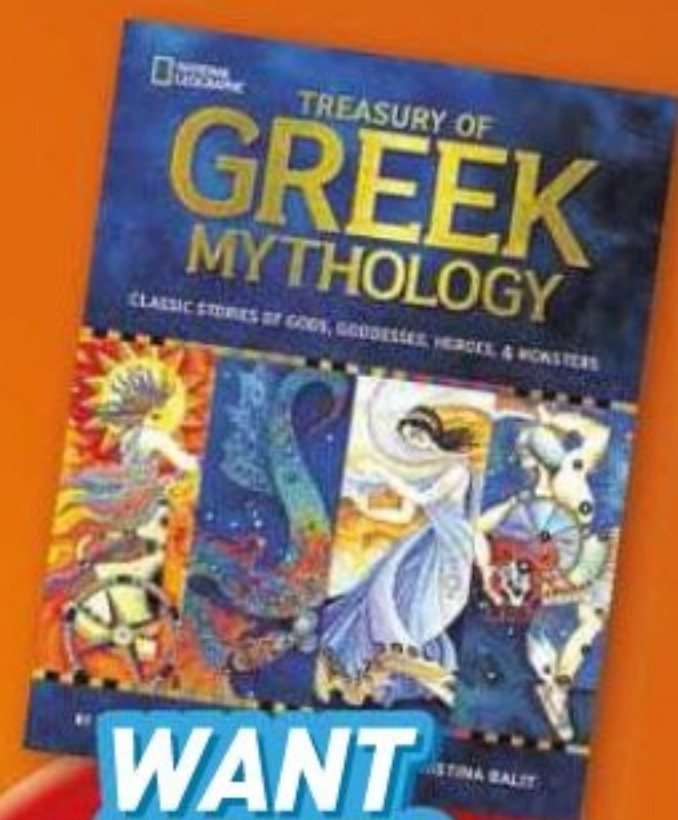
heads with flickering black tongues. Typhon's eyes flashed fire. Everyone fell back in terror. Except Zeus. He had lightning. He burned off Typhon's heads and banished him to become wild winds that cursed sailors on the high seas. Zeus was the undisputed king.

The brothers divided up the universe. Poseidon took the seas, Hades got the underworld and Zeus kept everything else. The sisters were left out entirely. That was typical of Zeus. He was brought up to believe he was entitled to everything. Nothing ever changed his mind.





ZEUS USED A THUNDERBOLT TO DEFEAT THE HUNDRED-HEADED BEAST TYPHON.



WANT MORE?

Check out the National Geographic book *Treasury of Greek Mythology: Classic Stories of Gods, Goddesses, Heroes, & Monsters* by Donna Jo Napoli.



REPRINTED WITH PERMISSION FROM THE BOOK 'NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC TREASURY OF GREEK MYTHOLOGY: CLASSIC STORIES OF GODS, GODDESSES, HEROES, & MONSTERS' BY DONNA JO NAPOLI. ILLUSTRATED BY CHRISTINA BALIT. TEXT COPYRIGHT © 2011 DONNA JO NAPOLI. ILLUSTRATIONS COPYRIGHT © 2011 CHRISTINA BALIT. COMPILATION COPYRIGHT © 2011 NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SOCIETY. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

GREEN

How three well-known South African attractions are getting an energy boost.

What would your life be like without electricity? Grim and dim! It is used for lighting, heating and cooling, for cooking and to charge all kinds of gadgets.

In South Africa three quarters of our energy comes from coal. This is more than other countries mainly because we have so much of the stuff! We are the fifth largest coal-producing country in the world.

The trouble is when coal is burnt to make electricity, carbon dioxide is released into the atmosphere. This adds to global warming.

It's time to think clean and green: we need ways to make electricity without messing up the environment.

ZOO POO

Lorna Fuller runs the environmental programme at the Johannesburg Zoo. Over the past few years they have made lots of good green changes. "Time is running out, so we all have to do something. The easiest way to start is making small changes to our daily lifestyle. Encouraging people around us to do the same is important and I am glad I could do this at the zoo," Lorna says.

Because the zoo gets so many visitors, it's the perfect place to show people what can be done.

Project 90 x 2030, is a Non Governmental Organisation set up to challenge South Africans to change the

way they live and the way they relate to the environment by 2030.

With the help of this organisation the zoo set up a biogas digester. This produces biogas out of vegetable scraps from the restaurant and the piles of dung which is "supplied" by the animals. The gas is piped back into the restaurant and used for cooking. Next time you order lunch at the zoo, you'll know the elephants helped to cook it.

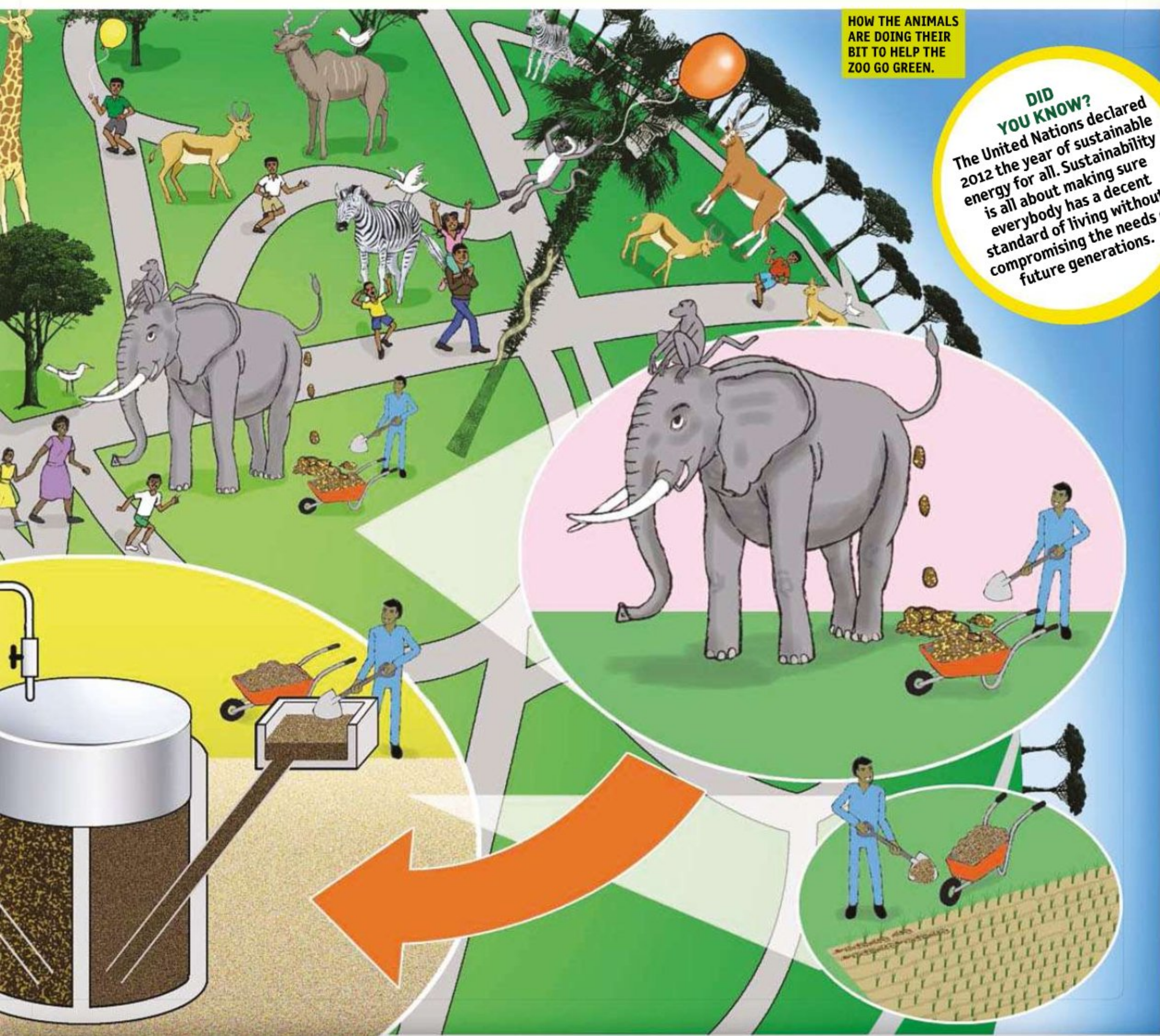
COOL PENGUINS

Wallace and Grommit are two of the rockhopper penguins living at the Two Oceans Aquarium in Cape Town. They were found stranded on different Western Cape beaches 2 000 kilometres from their home in the southern



FOLLOWER

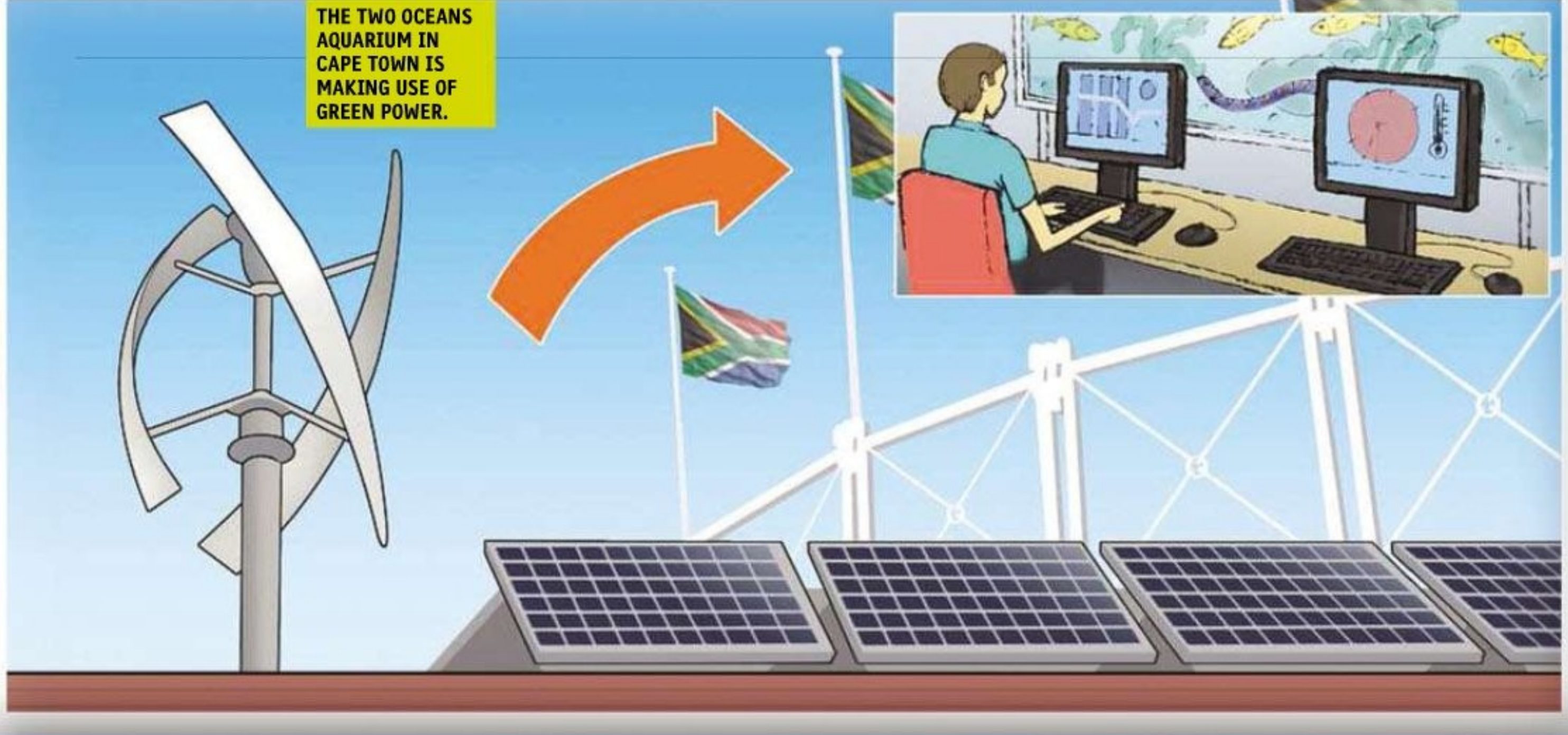
BY FIONA THOMSON



HOW THE ANIMALS ARE DOING THEIR BIT TO HELP THE ZOO GO GREEN.

DID YOU KNOW?
The United Nations declared 2012 the year of sustainable energy for all. Sustainability is all about making sure everybody has a decent standard of living without compromising the needs of future generations.

THE TWO OCEANS AQUARIUM IN CAPE TOWN IS MAKING USE OF GREEN POWER.



Atlantic Ocean.

They can't be released back into the wild but keeping their new home in Cape Town as cool as they like it, takes a lot of electricity!

Mike de Maine is the Technical Manager at the Two Oceans Aquarium in Cape Town and has made it his mission to reduce the aquarium's carbon footprint. In 18 months he's already cut the bill by over R200 000.

His plans included lots of simple things you can get your parents to do at home, like putting timers on lights and blankets on geysers. "We at the aquarium can't

promote saving the planet without doing it ourselves," Mike says.

In 2011 the Two Oceans Aquarium was selected as a demonstration site by Project 90 x 2030. They installed a wind turbine and solar panel system on the roof, which is producing enough energy for the administration block – for now. With more wind and solar technology the rest of the aquarium can turn green as well.

FLOWER POWER

Sometimes the best ideas are found in nature. Some plants track the

sun, turning their leaves so they get maximum power from photosynthesis. Martin Clement, Curator at the Durban Botanic Gardens, says there's no better place to look for clever eco-solutions that mimic the way plants get their energy.

Working with Project 90 x 2030, two 2-kilowatt solar arrays mounted on tracking systems were installed in the gardens where people can see them every day. The solar panels face the sun as it rises in the morning, rotating through the day until sunset and keeping the power on in the visitor's centre.

THESE SOLAR PANELS TURN TO MAKE THE MOST OF THE SUN.



Wildlife WATCH

BY JANI COETZEE

DID YOU KNOW?
The riverine rabbit's closest relative is the domestic rabbit we keep as pets.

Bunny Update!

The Karoo in South Africa is the only home of a very special bunny called the riverine rabbit. We featured them in 2007 and thought we'd check in with Christy Bragg, manager of the Riverine Rabbit Programme, to find out how these rare bunnies are doing.

PICKY NEIGHBOURS

Riverine rabbits are picky about their habitat. They live on floodplains that have special riverine vegetation on which they rely for food and shelter. "Very few riverine rabbits are found in national parks and game reserves," Christy says. "Most are on private farmland and when a landowner ploughs up the riverine vegetation to grow crops or dams a river, their habitat is altered or lost."

BUNNY BOOST

In 2002 there were about 250 rabbits left in the wild, but thanks to conservation their number has increased to over 500.

The Riverine Rabbit Programme is based in Loxton in the Northern Cape and has several projects running.

"We have a small nursery where local people are employed to grow indigenous plants," Christy says. "We plant these in degraded areas in the rabbit's habitat. This also helps farmers, as we're increasing the productivity of the Karoo veld for livestock." They also work with farmers who agree to protect the riverine areas on their farms.

In return, nature conservation authorities help with alien plant clearing, fire management, grazing advice and tourism benefits.

HIDE-AND-SEEK

Riverine rabbits don't have a high breeding rate. They have two babies a year and only live for up to five years in the wild. So it was a surprise to all when a population of riverine rabbits was discovered in Barrydale and Touwsriver in the Western Cape in 2003. "We're always hoping more rabbits will be found," Christy says.



RIVERINE RABBITS HAVE WHITE CIRCLES ALMOST LIKE SPECTACLES AROUND THEIR EYES AND A VERY DISTINCT WHITE LINE AROUND THEIR CHIN THAT LOOKS LIKE A SMILE.

AVERAGE SIZE Adult male and females: 1,8 kilograms

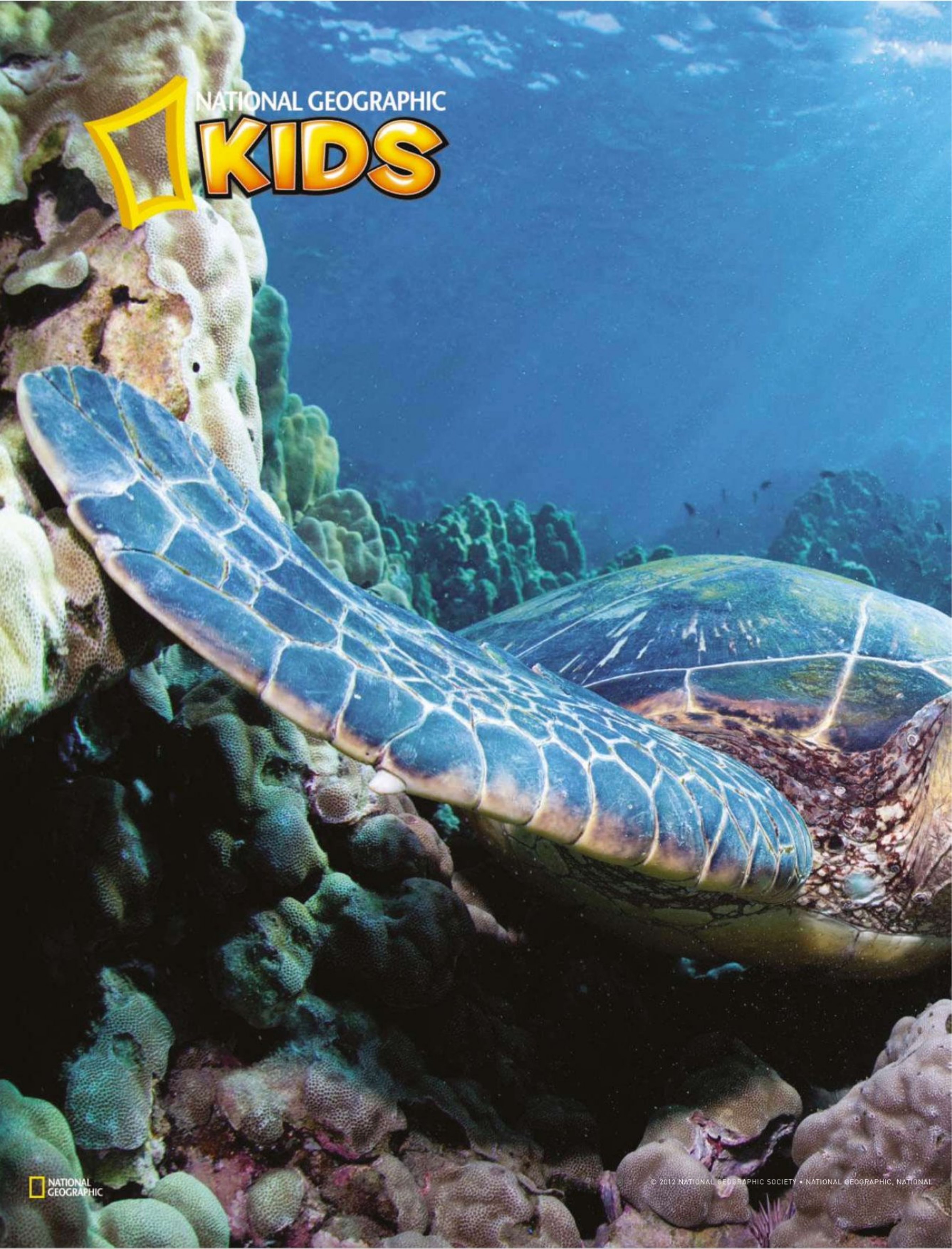
FAVOURITE FOOD Mesembs (succulent plants)

FAVOURITE TIME TO HOP ALONG At night. They are nocturnal.

STATUS They were listed as critically endangered by the IUCN in 2003.



NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC
KIDS





Sea Turtle

WIN A HOLIDAY IN A LUXURY HOTEL WORTH R22 000

Enter this month's competition and you could win a three-night getaway for a family of four at the five-star Kurland Hotel, near the beach resorts of Plettenberg Bay and Nature's Valley.

SWEET TREATS AT CAFÉ COMPLET ON THE ESTATE

FUN THINGS FOR YOU TO DO

Pony rides, mountain and quad biking, tennis, swimming, nature walks, picnics, cricket, croquet, cooking and pizza-making.

DID YOU KNOW?
Plettenberg Bay was called Bahia Formosa by early Portuguese explorers. It means beautiful bay.

TAKING THE PONIES FOR A WALK AT KURLAND.



Children can discover the estate under the watchful eye of expert staff.

To enter: tell us what early Portuguese explorers called Plettenberg Bay.

SMS* "NGK KURLAND", followed by your name, age and answer to 33970.



YOUR OWN LOFT-STYLE BEDROOM

IT'S A COOL PLACE TO STAY!

- You sleep in special loft-style bedrooms complete with toys.
- You can eat in your own dining room.
- Prepare a gourmet pizza with help from the executive chef.
- There are lots of play areas with fun things for you to do.
- It's close to some of the best whale and dolphin watching spots in the world.



TERMS AND CONDITIONS:

*1. SMSs cost R1,50 and free minutes do not apply. 2. You may enter as many times as you like. 3. The winner will be determined by a random number generator and will be notified telephonically one week after the closing date. 4. No correspondence will be entered into. 5. The prize is non-transferable, non-redeemable for cash, non-upgradeable and cannot be extended. 6. The competition opens on 21 March 2012 and closes on 24 April 2012. 7. Entrants must be 14 years old or younger. 8. The prize must be taken from 16 April 2012 to 31 October 2012, is subject to availability and may be booked over school holidays, but excludes public holidays. 9. Children must be under 16 years to qualify for shared accommodation. 10. The prize includes: three nights accommodation at Kurland Hotel for four people sharing (two adults and two children) in a Superior Room. It includes full breakfast; all non-alcoholic beverages; teas and coffees; use of Kurland Treatment Room's sauna, steam room and gym; 24 hour internet access; use of quad bikes, mountain bikes and tennis courts; tea, coffee, cakes and pastries served at Café Complet; secure parking on the estate; tea and coffee delivered to room with wake-up call; tourism levy at prevailing national rate (1 percent) and VAT at 14 percent. 11. This prize excludes: transport or transfers; laundry; personal extras; alcoholic drinks; lunches and dinners; spa treatments; horse riding. 12. Staff of Media24 (Ltd) and their immediate family, sponsors and their advertising agencies may not enter. 13. The entrant accepts that entry to the competition does not constitute a contract of any form of legal commitment between the entrant and NG KIDS. 14. NG KIDS shall not assume liability for any ambiguity, error, oversight or omission whether negligent or otherwise which may be committed by an employee of NG KIDS, their agents or associates in respect of this competition. 15. Participants and winners of this competition indemnify and hold National Geographic Kids, Media24 (Ltd), The National Geographic Society and the sponsor harmless against any liability, claim, damage or loss that may result from participating or winning this prize.

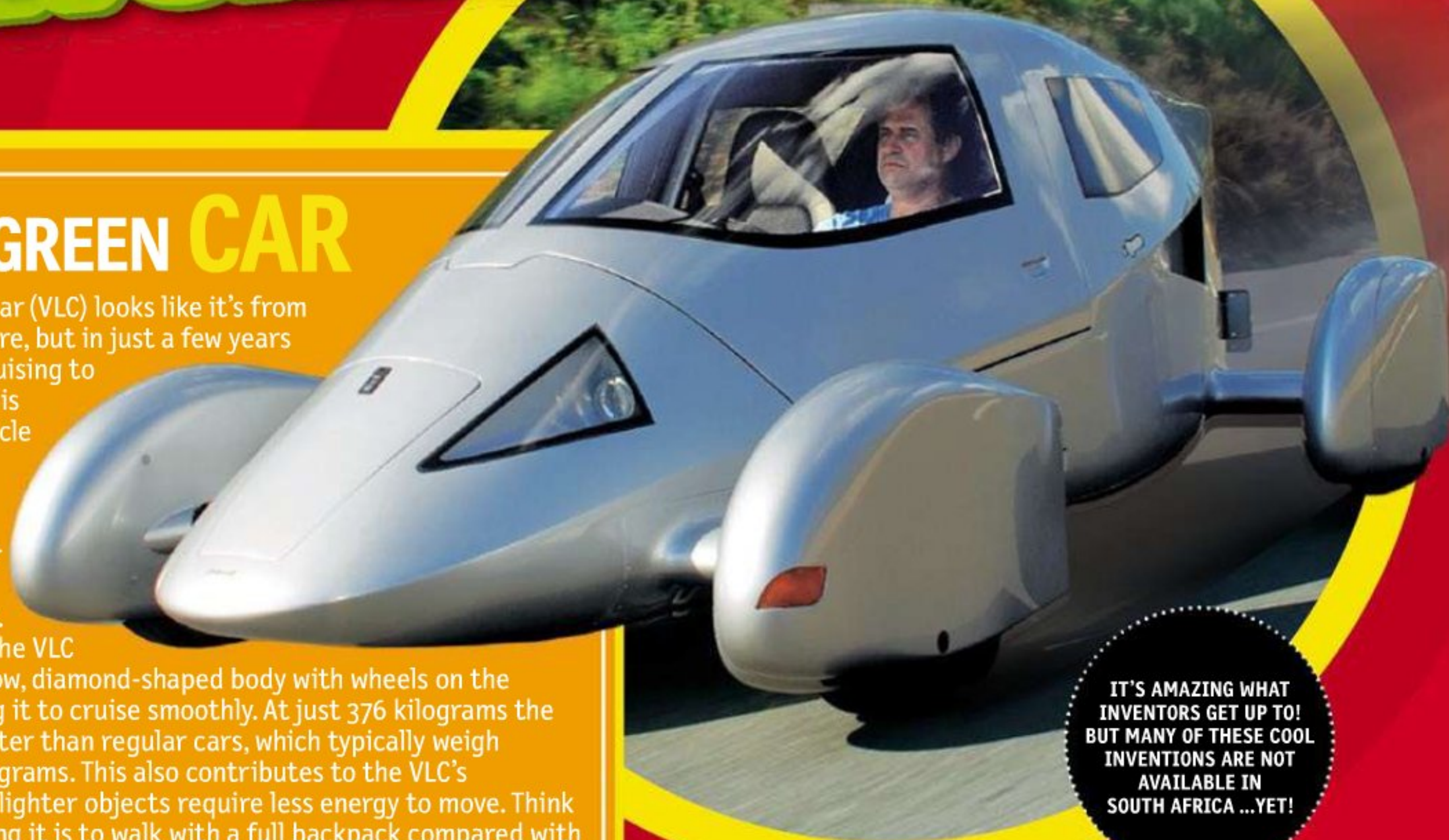
COOL inventions

BY CATHY LU

LEAN, GREEN CAR

The Very Light Car (VLC) looks like it's from the distant future, but in just a few years you might be cruising to school in one. This supergreen vehicle is capable of getting about 60 kilometres a litre—about four times what today's cars get.

Like a race car the VLC has a long, narrow, diamond-shaped body with wheels on the outside, allowing it to cruise smoothly. At just 376 kilograms the VLC is much lighter than regular cars, which typically weigh about 1 500 kilograms. This also contributes to the VLC's efficiency, since lighter objects require less energy to move. Think of how exhausting it is to walk with a full backpack compared with an empty one. With sleek looks and an eco-friendly design, this is one carpool ride you'll love to join to school.



IT'S AMAZING WHAT INVENTORS GET UP TO! BUT MANY OF THESE COOL INVENTIONS ARE NOT AVAILABLE IN SOUTH AFRICA ...YET!

CAPTURING THE MOMENT

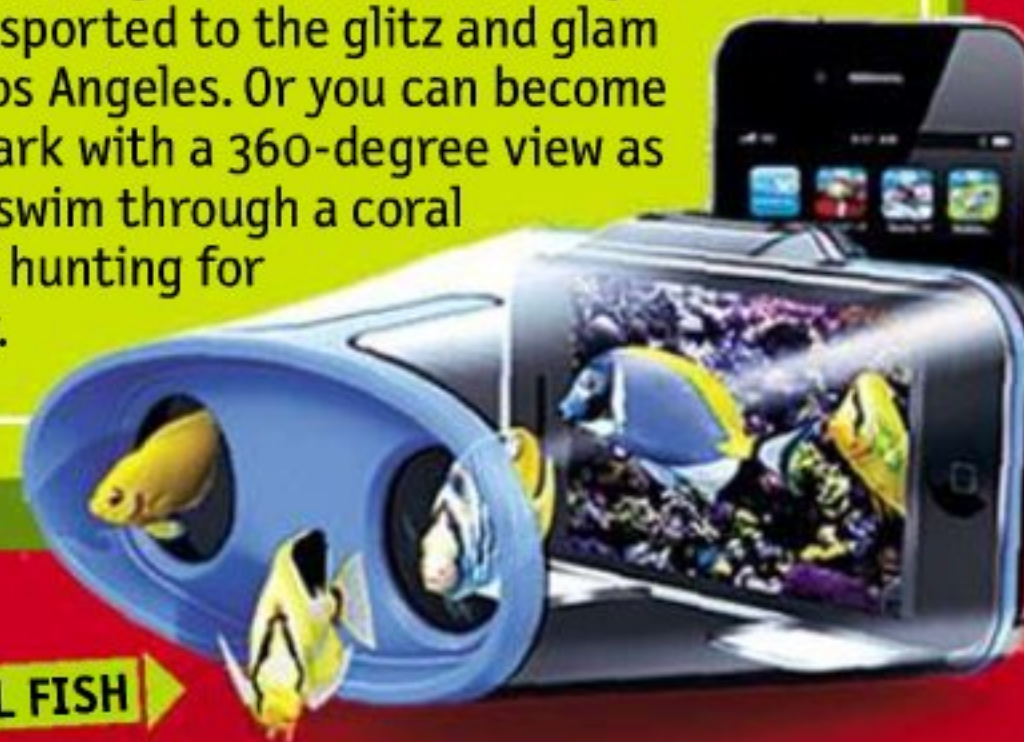


With a satisfying *thwack* the ball soars off your bat and into the pavilion. By the time the umpire signals a six, your brother in the stands has sent a video of your awesome batting across the country to your grandparents. The Looxcie video camera perches on his ear, constantly capturing the action in front of him. When something memorable happens, he presses a button that automatically saves the past 30 seconds of video. He can share the clip on YouTube, Facebook, Twitter or in an e-mail. Now your friends will *have* to believe your story about hitting the match-winning six!



3-D FUN

Shoot through a tunnel in a futuristic vehicle. Explore the city of Los Angeles in America. Glide along the ocean floor as a fearsome predator. And it's all in 3-D! The MY3D viewer creates the sensation of three dimensions through your iPod or iPhone. Attach the MY3D to your device, start up one of the games and peer through the viewer for action that puts you in the scene. In one game you race through tunnels by tilting the viewer from side to side to avoid a major crash. In another you're transported to the glitz and glam of Los Angeles. Or you can become a shark with a 360-degree view as you swim through a coral reef hunting for prey.

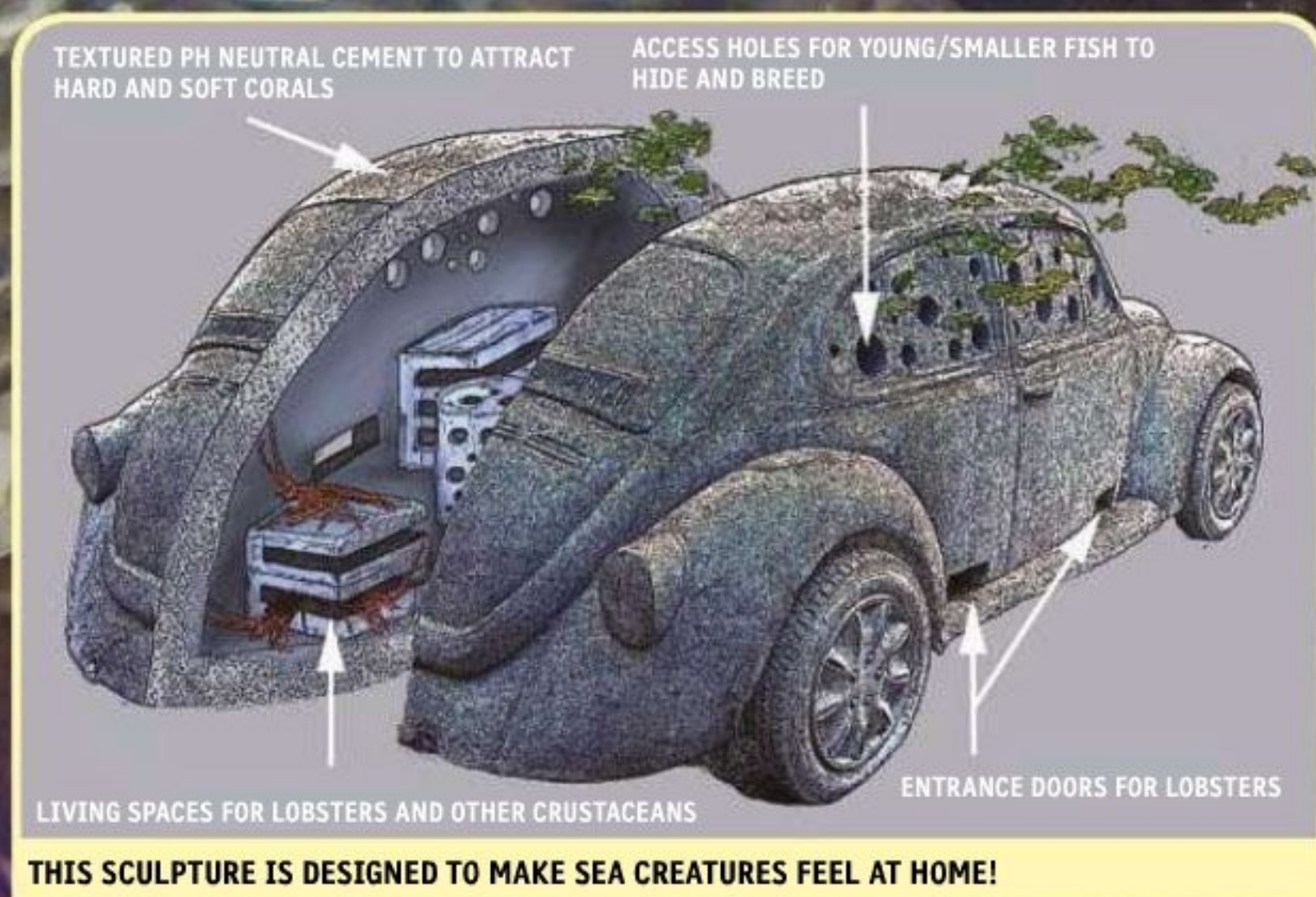


VIRTUAL FISH

COURTESY BRAD JAEGER (VERY LIGHT CAR); MARK THIESSEN / NGS STAFF (LOOXCIE, BOTH); COURTESY OF HASBRO (MY3D)

UNDERWATER

Find out why lobsters love their new car



FREE ENTRANCE FOR FISH AT THIS GALLERY

SCULPTURES

BY FIONA THOMSON

It's funny to imagine fish making their home in the long-abandoned engine room of a shipwreck but over time layers of algae, as well as soft orange and pink corals, cover the smooth metal surfaces. To a fish it's almost the same as the real thing.

That's why shipwrecks and other artificial reefs make good fishing and diving spots. People have taken it one step further and made artificial reefs by sinking logs, damaged boats and even old subway carriages on purpose. It's not cool to dump your old junk in the sea, but some studies show that well-planned artificial reefs can help the environment. Some studies have even proven that they can support a greater variety of fish species.



THE AIDA SHIPWRECK

DID YOU KNOW?

On 15 September 1957 the captain of the *Aida* was trying to dock at Big Brother Island in the Red Sea near Egypt. It was a stormy day and the ship crashed against the rocks. Nobody was hurt in the accident but the *Aida* drifted offshore and sank.

After all these years you can still make out parts of the structure under layers of pink and orange coral as fish swim by.

ECO-ART

Jason deCaires Taylor is a sculptor who combines his art with conservation. While scuba diving in the Caribbean he noticed how the coral reef near where he lived was suffering because of tourism. "I thought about making artificial reefs using my skills as a sculptor because the natural reef was being kicked by divers and broken by boats dropping their anchors," he says. "The idea was to create a new attraction to draw people away. That would give the real reef time to recover. A lot of conservation is about leaving things alone. That's one of the biggest aims of the sculptures." Jason uses special environmentally friendly materials that won't pollute the ocean and are designed to attract marine life. Most of his sculptures have been of people. Once the sculptures are in place, the ocean takes over. Algae and coral start to grow. "To me this is the most exciting and dynamic part of the work, it's so unpredictable. I saw recently that the hair of one of the sculptures had started growing this sort of curly algae. I couldn't have predicted they would colonise that particular part. But it just looked so perfect in its spot," he says.

UNDERWATER BUG

His latest sculpture gallery is in the warm, shallow waters off the Mexican coast. It includes a life-sized replica of a VW Beetle. Unlike the road version, it has an enclosed "lobster city" designed to attract crustaceans. It's no accident that he used a car for his latest work. Cars and other forms of transport have contributed to increased levels of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere over the past hundred years.

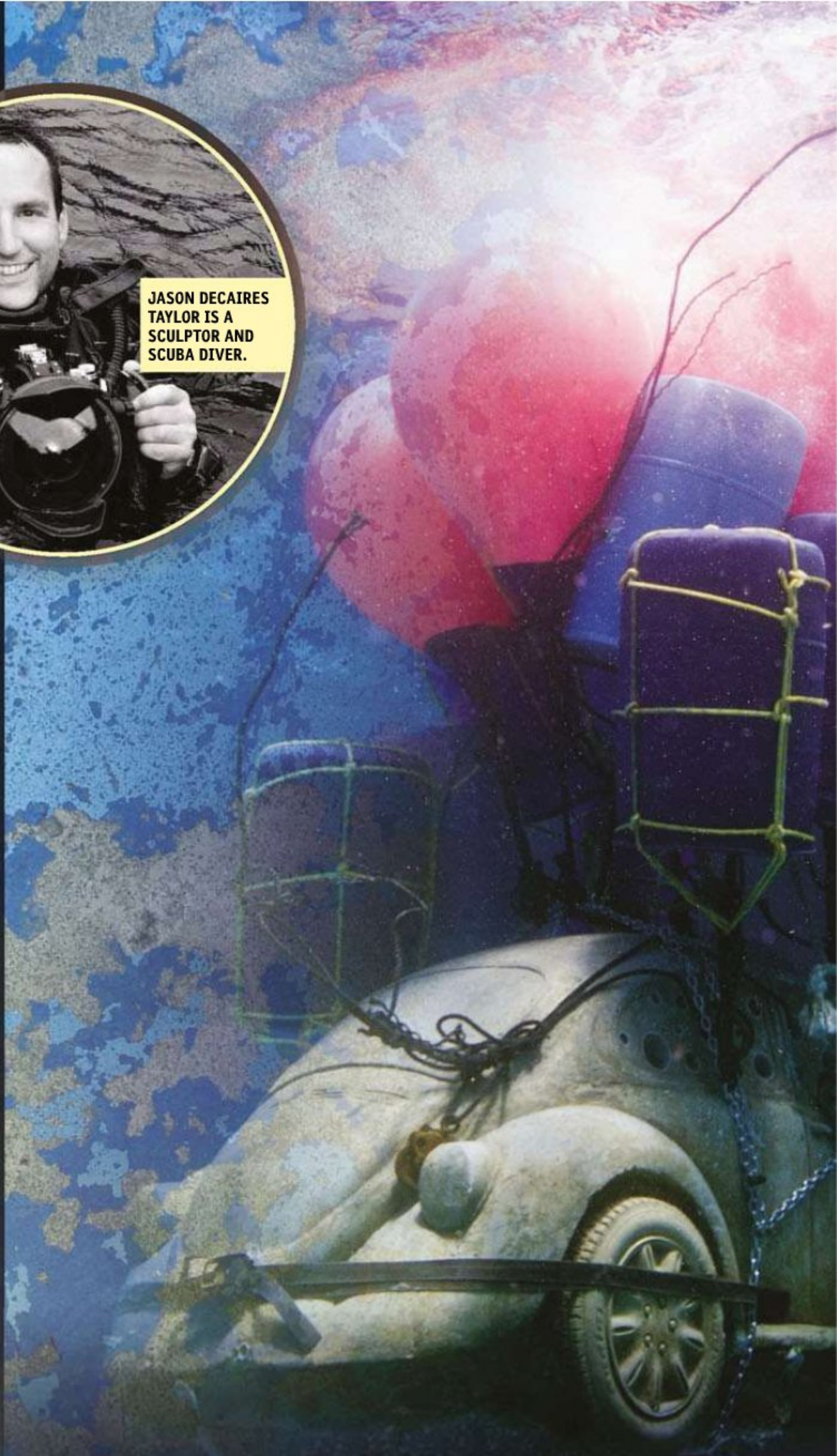
This is global warming and it means the ocean is hotter and more acidic now, which is killing coral reefs. "The sculpture is designed specifically to house marine life while exploring the big impact humans have had on our planet's ecosystems and what it means for future generations," Jason says.

DON'T BUG ME

The beetle joins a crowd of 400 life-sized statues in the underwater sculpture garden in Mexico. You can visit this unique gallery if you are a diver or snorkeler and each time it will be a little different. Jason's wish is that visitors to his sculpture garden will learn about the diversity and beauty of ocean life but will also realise that there is hope – we can make a difference for our fishy friends.



JASON DECAIRES TAYLOR IS A SCULPTOR AND SCUBA DIVER.



THE EIGHT-TON CAR FLOATS DOWN TO THE UNDERWATER GALLERY.



FISH SWIM AMONG THE STATUES.



JASON DECAIRES TAYLOR IALL SCULPTURES, ISTOCKPHOTO (ALGAE, SPONGES, CORALS, FISH, CRUSTACEANS), GETTY / GALLO (SHIPWRECK)



REEF LIFE

Plant and animal life you can find on artificial and natural reefs.

- 1 ALGAE:** These are plant-like life forms that live mostly in water. Like plants they use photosynthesis to make their own food, so they are a very important source of oxygen. All different types of algae are found on reefs.
- 2 SPONGES:** They might look like plants but they are animals that attach themselves to a reef. They suck food from sea water flowing through channels and pores in their bodies. Sponges come in many beautiful colours.
- 3 CORALS:** These animals are made up of many identical polyps, which are tiny creatures with a set of tentacles around their mouth opening. There are two main types of coral: soft and hard.
- 4 FISH:** Coral reefs make up only one percent of the world's ocean but 25 percent of all marine animals live on them. They are a lot safer and have more food than the open ocean.
- 5 CRUSTACEANS:** Lobsters, crabs and shrimps are all found on reefs.



[HTTP://WWW.JASONDECAIRESTAYLOR.COM](http://www.jasondecairestaylor.com)

BOBCAT

A family of pet cats raises a wild orphan.

BY JENNIFER WEEKS

A bobcat kitten cowers beside a road in Florida in America. The forest nearby has been bulldozed to make room for new houses, leaving nowhere to hide. The kitten is only a few weeks old and its mother has disappeared – perhaps hit by a car.

Luckily the kitten is found and brought to Big Cat Rescue (BCR), a sanctuary that helps abused and abandoned wild cats. Keepers at BCR know how to help their new visitor, who they name Hope. They bottle-feed her for a few days but then arrange an unusual adoption. A domestic mother cat living temporarily at their on-site cat hospital is nursing two kittens of her own. After lots of wary sniffing and circling, she accepts Hope into the family.

“I wanted to be sure Hope bonded with

cats, not people, so I never spoke to her or gave her attention,” says BCR president Jamie Veronica, who handled Hope’s rehabilitation. Within a week Hope has lots of playful energy, chasing and wrestling with her new siblings. These games teach her skills she’ll need in the wild, like climbing, balancing and stalking.

WILD LESSONS

Soon Hope graduates from nursing to ground turkey, which keepers have found is a favourite for many wild cats. Hope’s foster cat family helps to show her what solid food is. The bobcat follows their lead as she first sniffs, then licks and finally eats the turkey. “Once she discovered this new food she was no longer interested in nursing,” Jamie says. Her next treat is a dead chick left in her enclosure. In the wild Hope’s mother would stalk and kill food and bring it back to her young. At first Hope plays with it, but finally she figures out that it’s food. Soon she’s eating dead chicks and mice three times a day. Her wild instincts begin to show.

As the pet kittens and Hope grow, the entire family moves to a large outdoor enclosure with

three-metre-high fences, bushes, hanging platforms and rock dens for shelter. Hope seems to enjoy the new space, digging in the ground and scaling the enclosure’s wire walls.

MOVING ON

When Hope is four months old, her domestic cat family members are adopted by humans. Now it’s time for Hope to learn to catch food for herself. Her keepers release live rats into her enclosure at unpredictable times during the day through an opening that Hope can’t see. “We didn’t want her to go to humans in search of food,” Jamie says. It’s a success – Hope quickly becomes an expert hunter.

Now nearly a year old – the age at which young bobcats generally separate from their mothers – Hope is ready for release. Keepers take her to an open field ringed by woods. As soon as they open the travel crate, she bursts out and runs straight for the trees, bounding over the widest open space she has ever seen. At the edge of the forest she stops and looks back over her shoulder for a few seconds. Then she turns and disappears into the underbrush, ready for life on her own.



BOTTLE BABY

FOSTER FAMILY



Rescue

SET FREE



JAMIE VERNICA, BIG CAT RESCUE (ALL)

THE TRUTH BEHIND THE NEW MOVIE

Dr. Seuss' THE LORAX



BY JOHNNA RIZZO

In the new movie *Dr. Seuss' The Lorax*, the creatures living in Truffula Valley are suspicious of their new neighbour, a young man known as the Once-ler. He wants to cut down the valley's Truffula trees so he can make clothing out of their colourful treetops. But if he succeeds, he'll harm the creatures' home. With the help of a furry forest animal named the Lorax, the creatures try to stop the Once-ler before it's too late. How close are the critters in the movie to animals in real life? NG KIDS rooted around for answers.

The fearless Lorax speaks up for trees, trying to protect them from harm. Some studies show that real damaged trees may give off a chemical to warn surrounding plants of danger!

Unlike the other creatures in Dr. Seuss' tale, the Lorax is not based on a real animal. According to the movie's screenwriters, though, this furball most resembles an otter.

MOVING & GROOVING

When the newly arrived Once-ler starts dancing in Truffula Valley, bearlike creatures called Bar-Ba-Loots begin shimmying along with him. Bears in real life don't dance, of course, but they do have some pretty cool moves. "Despite their bulk, they're very agile and athletic," says Shannon Donahue of the Great Bear Foundation. Incredible climbers, spectacled bears have been observed scaling cliff walls. Grizzlies can run almost as fast as a galloping horse, and pandas and polar bears may do somersaults when they're feeling playful.

X



THE CREATURES LOOK ON AS THE ONCE-LER CHOPS DOWN A TREE.

FINS FOR FEET

The curious Humming-Fish like to hang out on land. They scoot across the grass on their tail fins to examine the stump of a Truffula tree that has been chopped down by the Once-ler. Certain species of real fish, such as mudskippers, can “walk” on land, too. But they don’t use their tail fins as feet. They lie on their bellies and push themselves around using the extra strong pectoral fins on the side of their head.

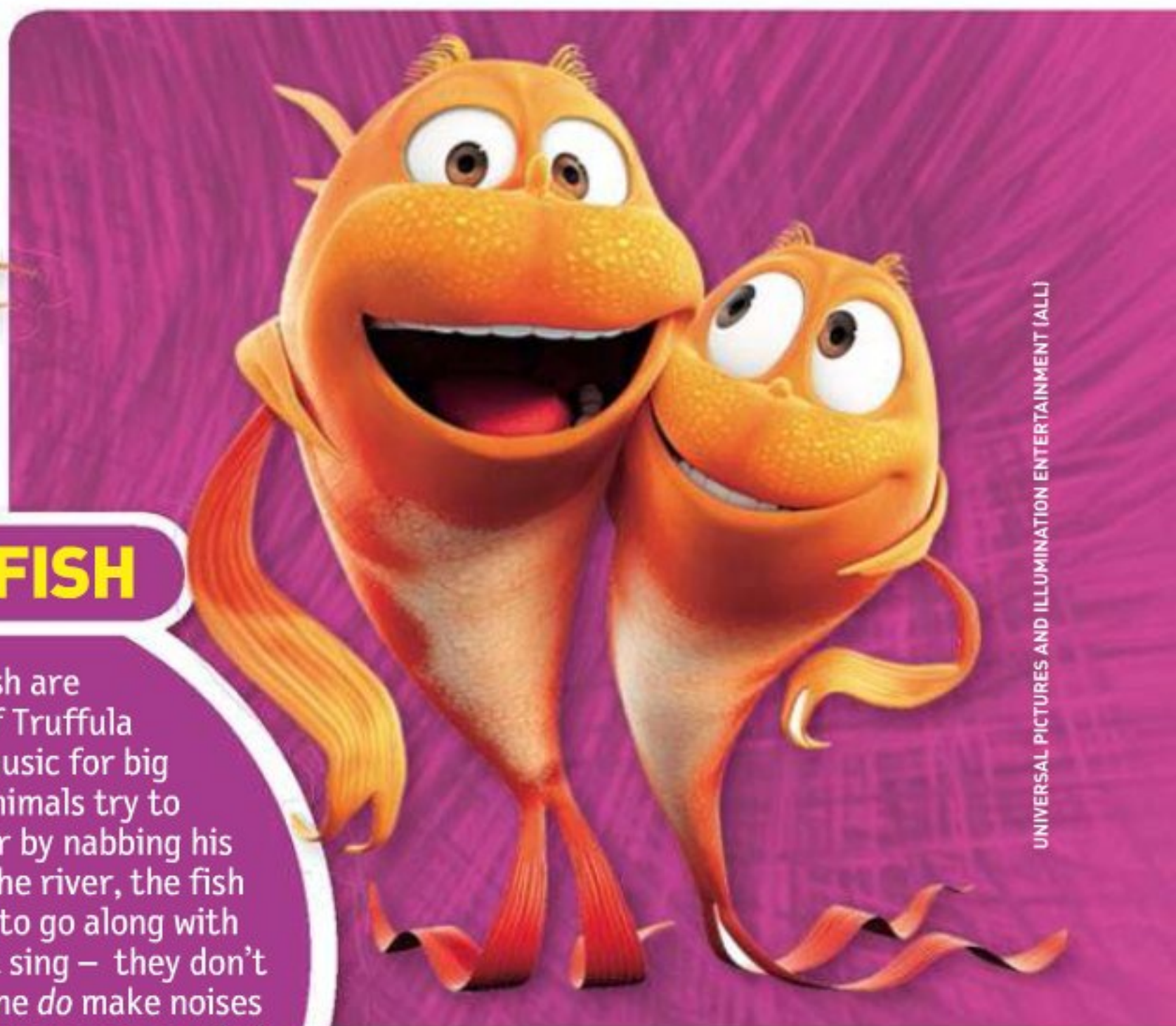


FREQUENT FLIERS

Cutting down Truffula trees destroys the Swomee-Swan nests. Real swans don’t build their nests in trees. They make them by lakes, ponds or other wetlands and often have more than one kind of nesting site. Tundra swans travel thousands of kilometres each year from their summer homes in Russia and Alaska to their winter spot on the southeast coast of America. They fly day and night – only making quick stops to grab some grub – and arrive in less than a month.

TUNE-A FISH

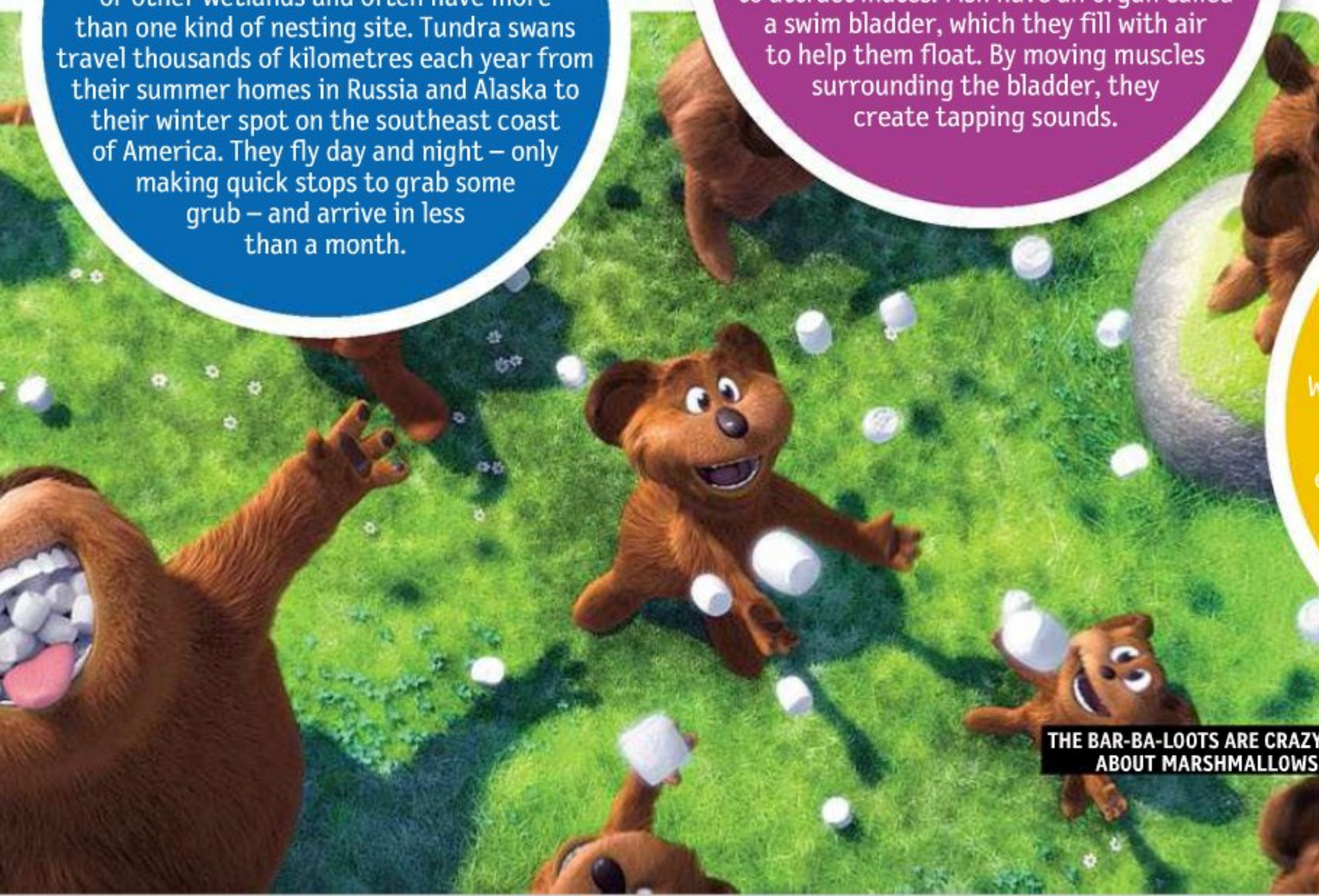
Humming-Fish are the rock stars of Truffula Valley, providing music for big events. When the animals try to scare away the Once-ler by nabbing his bed and throwing it in the river, the fish hum an energetic tune to go along with the action. Real fish can’t sing – they don’t have vocal cords! But some *do* make noises to attract mates. Fish have an organ called a swim bladder, which they fill with air to help them float. By moving muscles surrounding the bladder, they create tapping sounds.



UNIVERSAL PICTURES AND ILLUMINATION ENTERTAINMENT (ALL)

CEREAL PRIZE

The animals have a sleepover at the Once-ler’s house to keep an eye on him. The next morning one of the Swomee-Swans lays an egg in the Once-ler’s cereal bowl! When a real swan can’t get to her nest, she might lay her eggs somewhere else. But a cereal bowl wouldn’t be big enough for many mama swans. Trumpeter swans can lay up to nine eggs in one nesting session. Each egg is about ten centimetres long and seven centimetres across – that’s about the size of a cool drink can.



THE BAR-BA-LOOTS ARE CRAZY ABOUT MARSHMALLOWS.

CHEE



HANDIMAL



MACAW

“THE MOST IMPORTANT THING IS TO PAINT THE EYE
with the shape and expression of each animal,” Daniele says. “It gives character and life to the art.”

THE REAL ANIMAL

TO OPEN NUTS, A MACAW USES ITS BEAK, WHICH IS STRONG ENOUGH TO BREAK THROUGH A BROOMSTICK.



GUIDO DANIELE / SIPA (HANDIMALS, ALL); MARK THIESSEN / NGS STAFF (PLAIN HANDS, ALL); © CHRISTIAN SCHMALHOFFER / DREAMSTIME (CHEETAH); © R. GINO SANTA MARIA / DREAMSTIME (MACAW); © DONALD M. JONES / MINDEN PICTURES (MOOSE); © STOCKJIGGO / DREAMSTIME (IGUANA)

TAH

WHISKERS CAN BE TRICKY.

The most useful tools? "A fine paintbrush and a steady hand," Daniele says. "My favourite is a cheetah because it was my first and brought me luck."

THE REAL ANIMAL

CHEETAHS NEED TO DRINK ONLY ONCE EVERY 3 TO 4 DAYS.



MOOSE

THE ARTIST USED THREE HANDS TO

make the moose and 75 fingers for the grass. "The moose was the most complicated to build," Daniele says.



THESE ARE HUMAN FINGERS!



THE REAL ANIMAL

A MALE MOOSE'S SET OF ANTLERS CAN WEIGH MORE THAN 30 KILOGRAMS.

CHECK OUT THESE WILD HANDMADE CREATIONS.

BY B.F. SUMMERS AND KELLEY MILLER

What do you get when you cross a human hand with an animal? A "handimal"! Artist Guido Daniele positions people's hands into animal shapes, then paints them to create realistic works of art. "I study my hand in front of a mirror and imagine the forms it can take," says Daniele, who lives in Milan, Italy. Working from photos and his own memory, Daniele paints the animals onto the hands of models – usually his son or daughter. Check out these "handimals" and some of the secrets to Daniele's art. In this case, it's fine to "handle" the animals!

IGUANA

SMALL DETAILS CAN BE EASIER TO PAINT

while the hand is relaxed. Large features are painted while the hand is in the animal position. The iguana took the most time – between four and six hours. "It takes a lot of patience," Daniele says.

THE REAL ANIMAL

IGUANAS CAN LEAP INTO THE WATER FROM A TREE AND USE THEIR POWERFUL TAILS TO SWIM AWAY FROM PREDATORS.

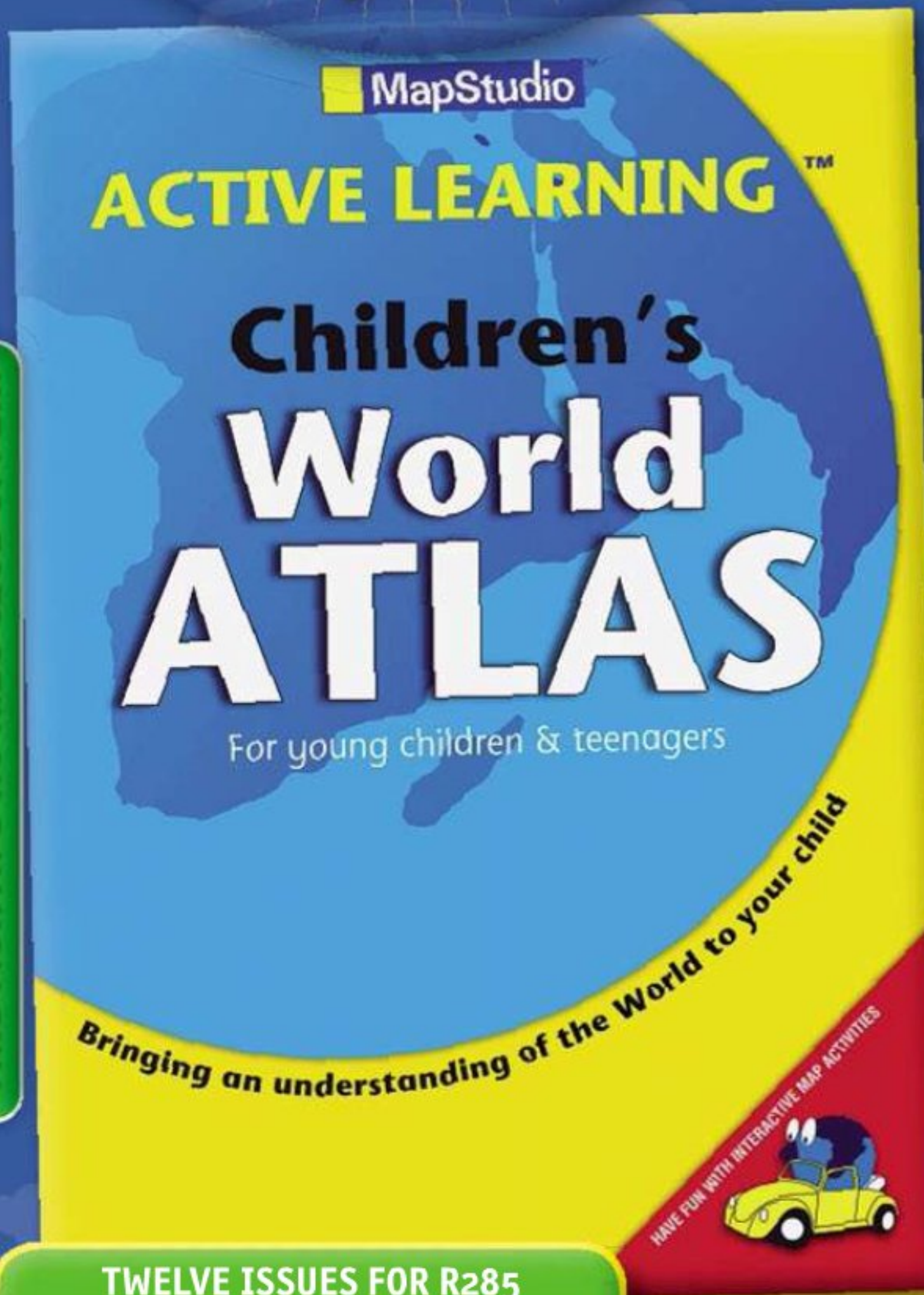


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Fun Stuff

games, laughs, and lots to do!



Story Scramble

The scrapbook photos from the Annual Earth Day Cleanup are all mixed up. Number the boxes above to show the order in which the events took place.

ANSWERS ON PAGE 50

GREEN TIPS
Unplug appliances you're not using. Even if they're turned off, they can drain energy.

What in the World?

LOOK OUT, BELOW!

These photographs show places on Earth from the air. Unscramble the letters to find out each picture.

Bonus: Use the highlighted letters to solve the puzzle below.

ANSWERS ON PAGE 50



A M O N N I T U



R F T O S E



L R T A A F L E W



N A O N Y C



A L C O V O N



R S E E D T



D T W S A E L N



C G B E R I E



F A R M L D N A

HINT: Sometimes it's low, sometimes it's high.

ANSWER: _____

H

P

GREEN TIP
Turn off the lights when you leave a room.

GREEN TIP
Try to buy local foods. Many foods are transported up to 2,000 kilometres before they're sold.



BY MARGARET J. KRAUSS
Ask a friend to give you words to fill in the blanks in this story without showing it to him or her. Then read out loud for a laugh.

My family joined a tree planting in honour of _____ Day. Grabbing our _____ ,
planet tool, plural
we walked to the park. "Whatever you do, don't _____ when you're planting," the leader said.
verb
With our arms full of _____ , my sister and I ran _____ down the path to dig our
noun, plural adverb ending in -ly
first hole. As we got started, I did exactly what the leader told me not to do: I _____. Suddenly,
past-tense verb
a(n) _____ burst from the tree! I stared at it for _____
adjective noun small number
seconds and watched it turn a deep shade of _____. I was so surprised, I _____
colour past-tense verb
like a(n) _____. As my sister and I started _____ down the path deeper into
animal verb ending in -ing
the woods, _____ started appearing from everywhere. Then the forest was filled with
noun, plural
_____ and _____. That's when I tripped over a root –
adjective noun, plural noun, plural
and woke up face down on my _____. I must love Earth – even my dreams are green!
piece of furniture

DAN SIPPLE



FUN factory



WATCH LIST →

WIN A BOOK!

You can win one of two *Where's The Meerkat?* books. SMS* "NGK Meerkat" followed by your name, age and address to 33970.

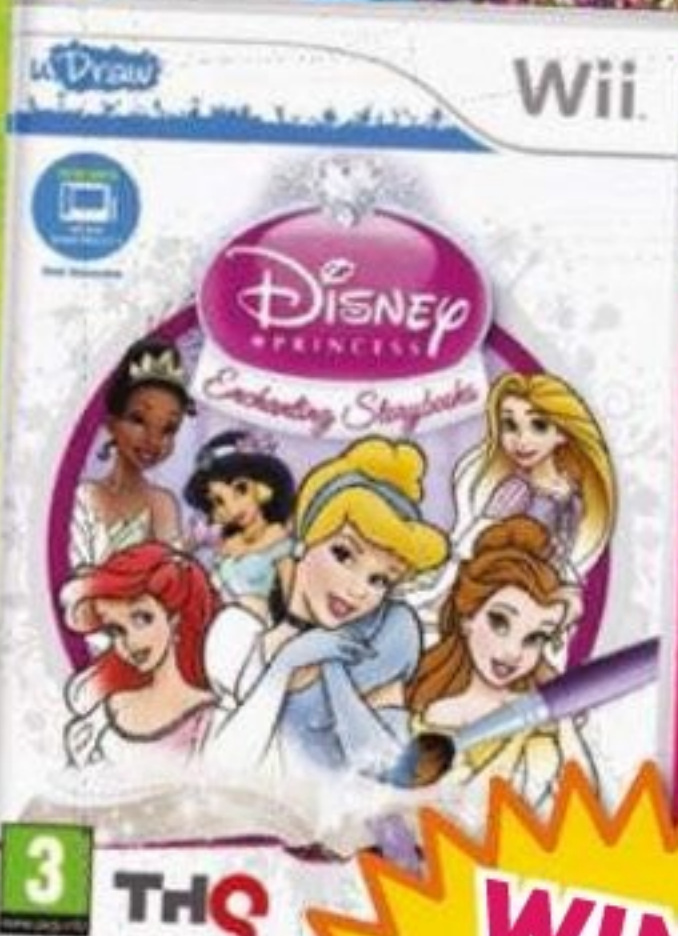


BOOKWORM



WHERE'S THE MEERKAT?
By Jen Wainwright
Join Miranda and Grampy and their family of mischievous meerkats on a trip of a lifetime – camping in the Kruger National Park, skiing in Austria, diving Australia's Great Barrier Reef and more. All you have to do is spot all ten meerkats in each picture. Are your eagle eyes up for the challenge?

DID YOU KNOW?
Meerkats will survive a scorpion or snake bite because they are naturally immune to the poison.



PLAY THIS! ↓



DISNEY PRINCESS: ENCHANTED STORYBOOKS

Wii / uDraw
It's chaos in the Disney kingdom. A powerful spell has caused all the colour to disappear from your favourite fables. Join Opal, the Keeper of Colour, in a series of activities to restore colour to the kingdom. The game is played using your Magic Brush (STYLUS) and the uDraw GameTablet. Use them to find hidden objects on the page. Pick colours from your toolbar to fill in different areas of the pictures and tilt your uDraw GameTablet to guide your way through tricky mazes. Unlock six magical tools, including Belle's Rose Petal Crayon and Rapunzel's Watercolour Brush, and finish all the chapters in the six storybooks to save Cinderella, Rapunzel and Belle from a dull, colourless life!

WIN A GAME!

You can win one of three *Disney Princess* games. SMS* "NGK Princess" followed by your name, age and address to 33970.

READER REVIEW: Ethan Daniels, 6, Cape Town
"I loved doing the join-the-dots! Careful with the maze in the Cinderella story, it's quite tricky!"

THE PIRATES! BAND OF MISFITS

The Pirate Captain dreams of winning the Pirate of the Year award – which may be a problem considering he's not very good at being a terror of the High Seas. He and his misfit crew travel from the shores of Blood Island to the foggy streets of Victorian London to beat his bitter rivals, Black Bellamy and Cutlass Liz, in this rollicking adventure. Aaarrgh!

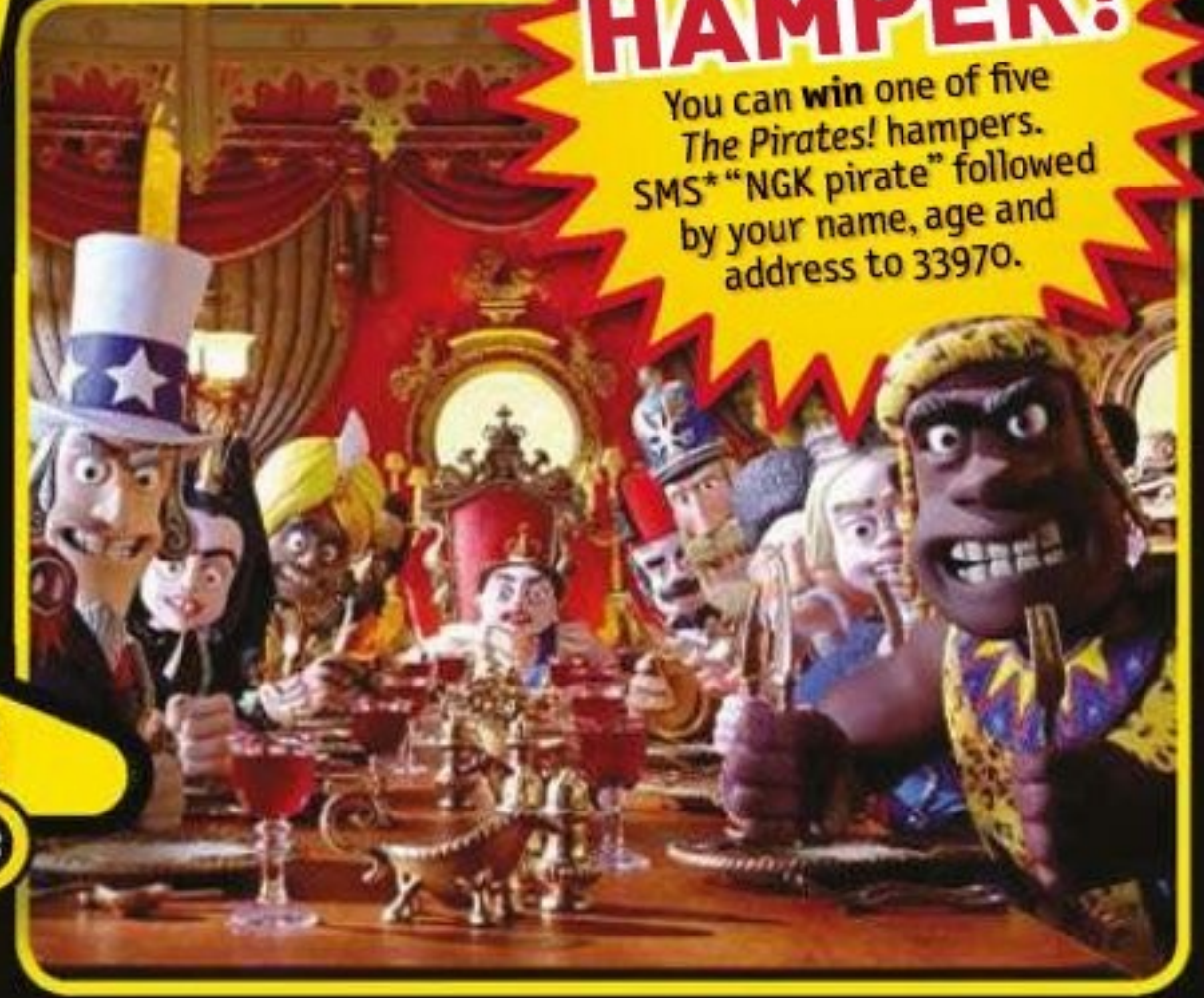
DID YOU KNOW?

The makers of the film used a new type of technology called 3-D printing to make the characters in the movie speak. "A 3-D printer connects to a computer and receives a file that describes an object in three dimensions", says Rich Brown, senior editor at cnet.com. It works much like a normal 2-D printer but instead of ink the layers build up in liquid form. The material sets as it prints out each layer and the end result is a 3-D object – a ball, a model airplane, or an animated critter. This helped the filmmakers finish the animation faster. "For the Pirate Captain model, instead of moulding the whole character each time, we could just make 257 separate mouths," says key animator Ian Whitlock.

The Pirates! Band of Misfits opens nationwide on 13 April 2012.

WIN A HAMPER!

You can win one of five *The Pirates!* hampers. SMS* "NGK pirate" followed by your name, age and address to 33970.



CREATE YOUR OWN PIRATE NAME!

Use the first letter of your name and the first letter of your surname to create your very own pirate name! For example: if your initials are C.H. your name would be Jack Scurvy.

A: Calico	J. Jiminy	S. Steven
B. Sea legs	K. Cross-eyed	T. El Capitan
C. Jack	L. Rowdy P.	U. One-tongue
D. Salty	M. Hawk	V. Diablo
E. Fish face	N. Crow nest	W. Sword
F. Long John	O. Stingray	X. Magpie
G. Peg-leg	P. Crooked chin	Y. Shark-fin
H. Scurvy	Q. Black	Z. Thunder Nose
I. Black eye	R. Johnny	

*SMSs cost R1,50. Free SMSs don't apply. Competition closes 24 April 2012.

STUMP YOUR PARENTS

If your parents can't answer these questions, maybe they should go to school instead of you!


ANSWERS ON PAGE 50



GREEN TIP
Pack the dishwasher. You'll save about 18 litres of water each time you don't wash the dishes by hand.



1 Which of these products can be made from maize?
A. straws C. balloons
B. tape D. toilet paper

2  The energy used to fill a bath could power a(n) _____ for eight minutes.
A. television C. lightbulb
B. microwave D. an American Idol concert

3 Besides laundry detergent, what other liquid can be mixed with water and used to remove stains?
A. buttermilk C. windscreen wiper fluid
B. ginger ale D. vinegar

GET A PARENT'S PERMISSION.

4 Every day about _____ species become extinct.
A. 1 to 20 C. 80 to 120
B. 30 to 70 D. 150 to 200

5 9. Raising livestock contributes what percentage of the world's greenhouse gas emissions?
A. 2 percent
B. 18 percent
C. 30 percent



6 The _____ is one of the world's critically endangered animals.
A. mountain gorilla C. red panda
B. humpback whale D. jaguar

7 Which of the following will not save petrol or reduce carbon dioxide emissions?
A. Keeping tyres properly inflated
B. Driving faster
C. Combining errands



8 Scientists estimate that by 2050 people will be unable to live on this group of islands because of rising sea levels.
A. the Bahamas
B. the Cayman Islands
C. the Philippines
D. the Maldives

9 Which alternative form of transportation burns the most calories during 30 minutes of use?
A. skateboard
B. tricycle
C. roller blades
D. scooter

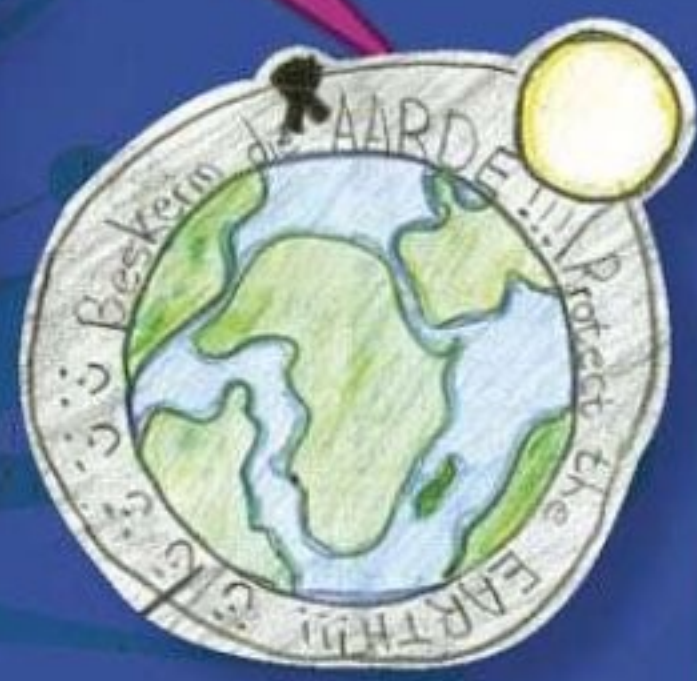


10 How many years does it take a single aluminium can to decompose?
A. 20 to 40 years
B. 60 to 80 years
C. 80 to 100 years
D. 100 to 120 years



Art Zone

"Beskerm die Aarde"
Annica Janse van
Vuuren, 11, Krugersdorp



"Die Lewendige Aarde"
Christeline Claasen, 12,
Stilbaai

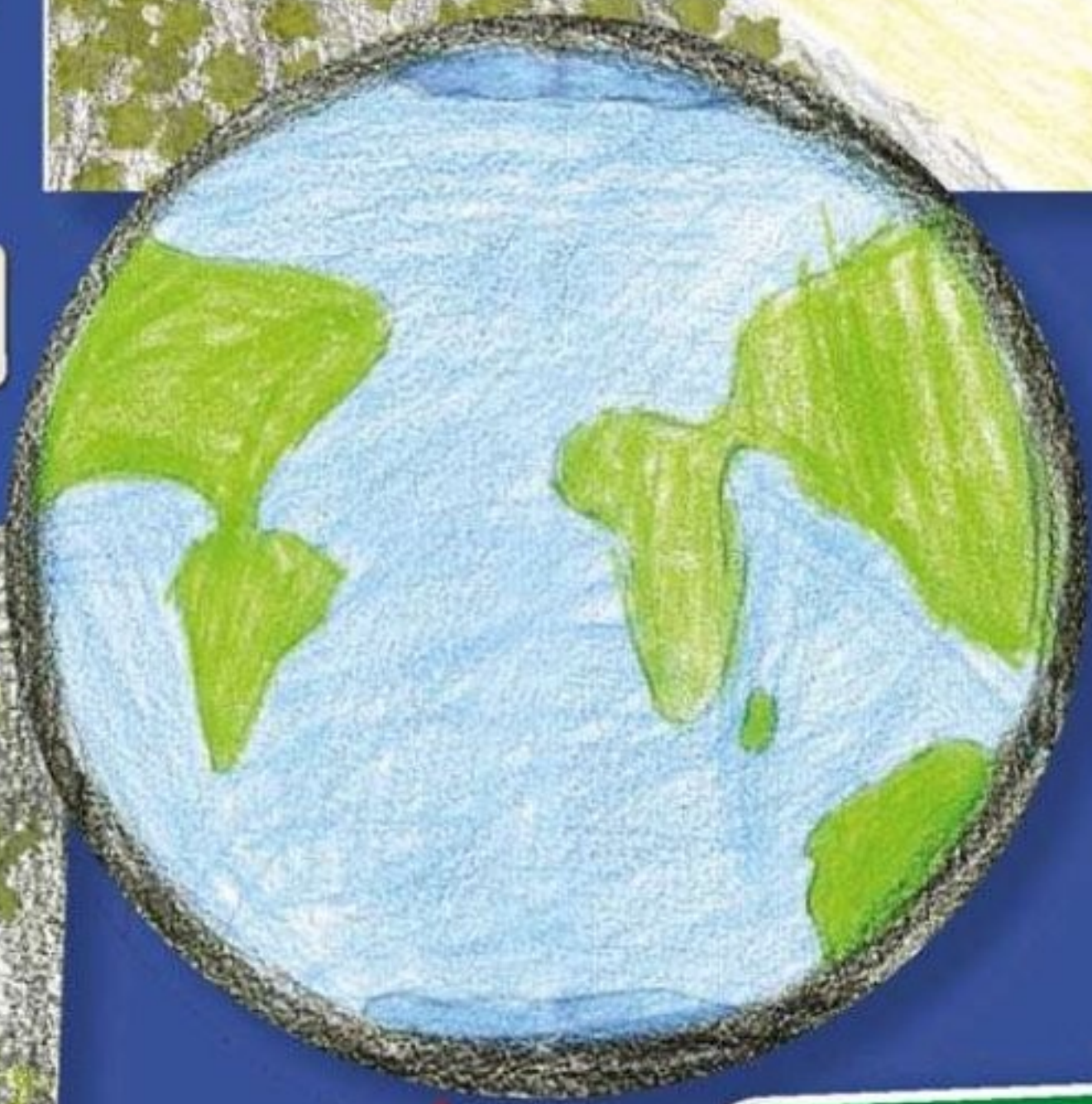


NG KIDS readers sent us drawings of our planet and they are out of this world!

Planet Earth
Grant Briel, 10, Pretoria



"Die Blou Spikkel"
Niquitta Briel, 8,
Pretoria



"My Droomwêreld"
Charisa Swanepoel, 11,
Barkley-West

Our Lucky Winners

Our lucky winners from the January issue are:

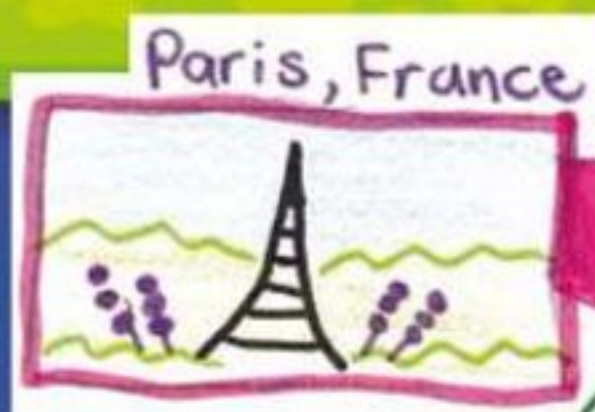
Yunomi Winners
Eneri Botha, Hugo Minnaar, Anel-Mari Botha, Riaan du Toit, Dylan Dowd

Ratchet & Clank Winner
Xander Liebenberg

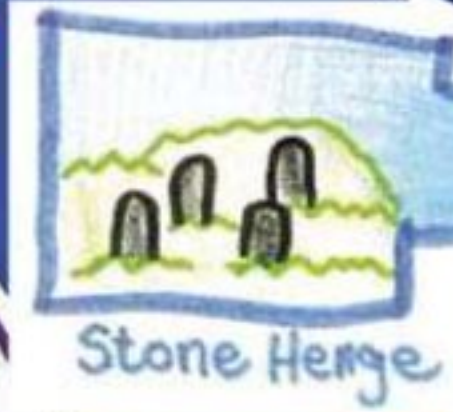
The Adventures of Tintin Winner
Tova Swartz



"Ons Wonderlike Wêreld"
Dorette Bester, 12,
Jongensfontein



Paris, France



Stone Henge



Die muur van China



Taj mahal



Tafelberg

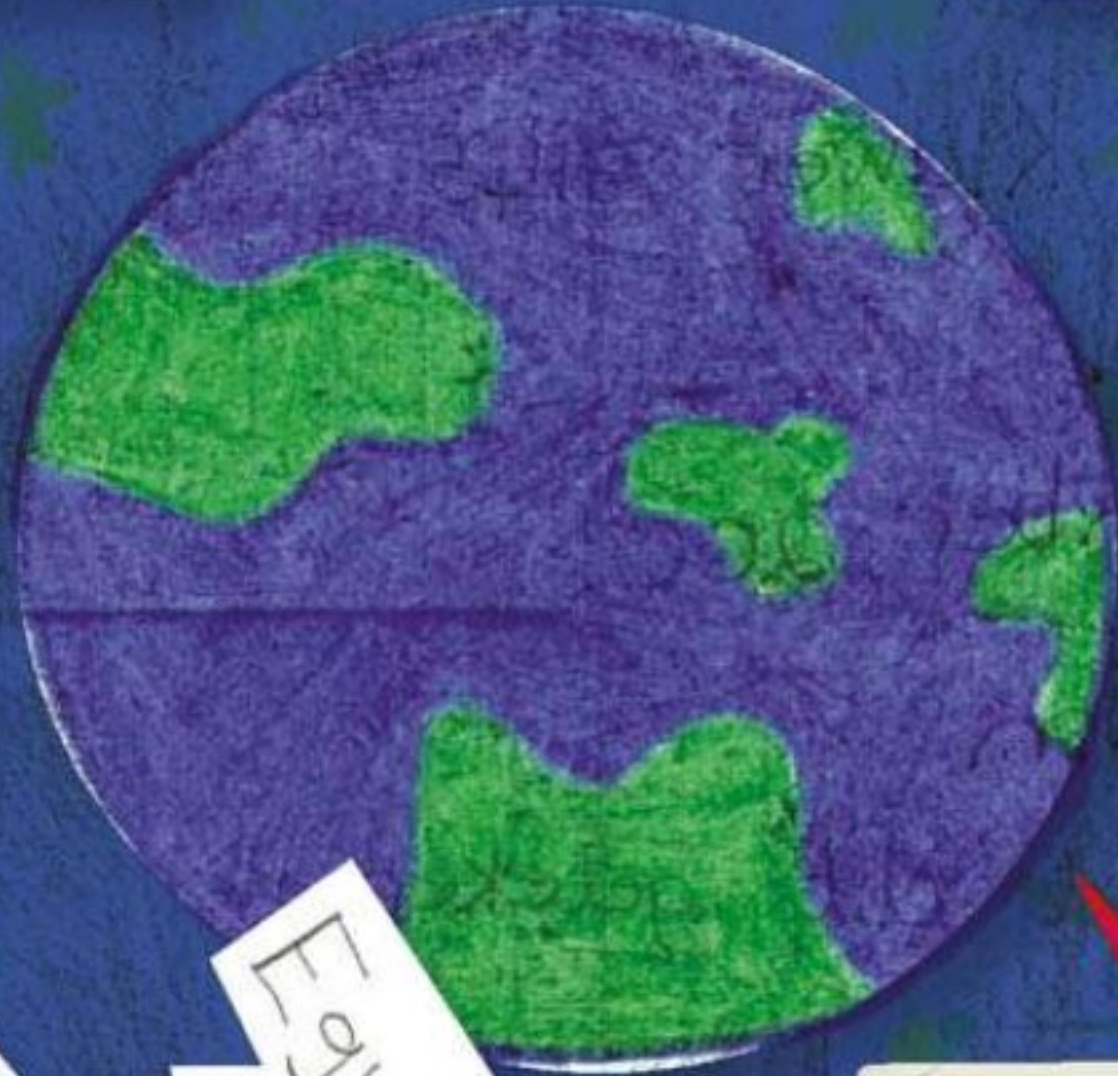


Blom van SA



Earth
Kate Munro, 12,
Somerset-West

I Hate Global
Warming
Edu Swarts, 12,
Sasolburg



"Hemelruim"
Selne Rossouw, 11,
Klawer



Earth
Damian Minnie, 9,
Meyerton Park



My Earth
Stephanie Anne Maggs, 8,
Cresta

DRAW A birthday cake for NG KIDS.

Send your original drawings to The Editor at NG KIDS, PO Box 2271, Cape Town 8000.

Include your name, address, phone number, date of birth, a title for your drawing, a statement that it is your own work and the name of your parent or guardian. Your parent or guardian must sign a release for publication of your illustration. Submissions become the property of the National Geographic Society and all rights thereto are transferred to the National Geographic Society. Submissions cannot be acknowledged or returned. Selection will be at the discretion of NG KIDS.

Just Joking



KNOCK,

KNOCK.

Who's there!
Honey bee.
Honey bee who?
Honey bee a dear and
recycle!



ANOTHER LAME JOKE

MAN: 'Doctor, I have an
obsession with wind farms.'
DOCTOR: 'Really?'
MAN: 'Yes. I'm a huge fan.'

Tongue TWISTER



Answers

"Story Scramble" (page 43):
Top row: 9, 2, 5. Middle row:
7, 3, 8. Bottom row: 4, 6, 1.
"What in the World?" (page 44):
Top row: mountain, forest, waterfall.
Middle row: canyon, volcano, desert.
Bottom row: wetlands, iceberg, farmland
Bonus: the temperature
"Stump Your Parents" (page 47):
1. A, 2. C, 3. D, 4. D, 5. B, 6. A,
7. B, 8. D, 9. C, 10. C.



Q What did the electric car
say when asked if it needed
petrol?

A No tanks!

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